POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2033

A BIG FARMER'S TRUST.

It Is to Be Managed by Walter N. Allen, of Topeka, Kan., and Has a Capital of $20,000,000.

Now the Trust idea has been seized in the interests of the farmers of the Valley of the Mississippi. Walter N. Allen, the manager of the Farmers' Federation there, has for years desired to make the Farmers' Federation, of which he was the organizer, a powerful factor in the control of the prices of farm products, and he hopes now that the new farmers' trust, with a $20,000,000 capitalization, which the federation has decided to form, will go far toward accomplishing this ideal.

Mr. Allen has had experience in many lines. For 30 years he has

WALTER N. ALLEN.

lived in Jefferson County, near Meriden, and in his personal business he has been successful. In public life he has been a member of the Kansas legislature, and has held the offices of county attorney, circuit and county clerk and probate judge of Jefferson County. He is a native of North Carolina and comes of Huguenot stock.

It was only after extended reflection on the causes that led to agricultural depression that Mr. Allen determined on the measures that seemed to him best for bringing relief. Eleven years ago, as a result of a call that he issued to the farmers of Kansas, the Farmers' Federation was organized, and a scheme for the disposal of farm products much like the present one was announced.

Mr. Allen's leading thought is that the existing organization for the marketing of cattle and grain puts the producer largely at the mercy of temporary conditions, and often makes him a slave at the hands of the buyer. By a combination of farmers through which the products will be held back from the market until they can profitably be disposed of, he believes that the producers will be put on a fair competitive level with other classes. He argues that if the federation has a membership representing only five per cent. of the total production the margin will be sufficient to make it successful.

The control of the market he hopes to see gained by the establishment of great commission houses in the principal centres of his country. Through these houses alone he would have the farmers belonging to the federation sell their products. Incidentally he believes that a great saving can be made to the farmers in this way, as he says the business for which $21,000,000 a year commissions are paid now could be handled easily for $1,000,000.

Mr. Allen is not averse to having his project described as a trust, but insists that it would prove an unoffending trust, in no way conflicting with any of the present state laws. He denies that it would either regulate production or arbitrarily fix prices.

Granular Butter.

The following method is employed for making butter which it is desired to keep for a considerable time. When the butter has reached the granular condition in churning, that is, when the particles are about the size of barley grains, the buttermilk is drawn off and ice-cold water added. The butter is then washed with cold water and removed from the churn to a stone jar without packing or mashing the grains. The jar is then filled with brine. This brine will soon dissolve some of the casine in the butter and so acquire a cloudy aspect. A change of brine will leave the second solution clear on the butter. A plate should be used to cover the butter, allowing the brine to come up over it. The brine to course, intermingles freely about each granule of butter throughout the mass, which will preserve for weeks in this way. It can be taken out any time and worked into rolls or prints. If too salty it may be washed out with clear water.

Rotted Sods for Manure.

There are many places in low lands by the roadside where the wash of the road has made the soil very rich. Sods cut from such land and piled in heaps rot down readily, especially if some wood ashes are thrown on them to hasten decomposition. This makes the best possible top dressing for grass lands, and will largely increase the growth where the soil is thin. If phosphate is added this compost becomes a complete manure for any kind of crop. The practice of rotting sod is very common in Lincolnshire, England, where in olden times the sod was cut very thin, and after being piled and dried out the heap was burned. There was waste of nitrogen in burning the sod, and allowing it to rod down is much the better way to make use of it.

Sunning the Dairy Pails.

The good old practice of sunning the dairy pails should not be forgotten, even though in many cases we have laid aside the shallow pans. The sun is a microbe killer of the first magnitude. He not only kills the microbes, but so thoroughly dries out the pails and other utensils of tin that the process of rusting is stopped. Wooden pails and utensils are also improved by being submitted to the solar rays. This of course should be done in the open air, where the atmosphere is not poisoned or impregnated by foul odors, and where the wind can have a full sweep.—Farmers' Review.

THE VALUE OF COWS.

It Depends on Their Capacity to Consume and Convert Feed.

The value of a cow should never be based on her size, as this is a poor criterion to judge by. The value of a dairy cow depends on her capacity to consume feed and turn it into butter fat. The cow that cannot assimilate a large quantity of feed can never be a good butter cow, as we cannot get from the cow more than we can get into her in the way of those feeds which produce butter.

Last winter at an institute H. B. Gurler said the cow that makes 250 pounds of butter can be credited with a profit equal to the amount received from 50 pounds. The cow that makes 300 pounds of butter should be credited with 100 pounds and is worth twice as much as the 250-pound cow. The cow that makes 350 pounds is worth three times as much as the one that makes 250 pounds and six times as much as the 225-pound cow. These figures are not exact however, for they imply that the 350-pound cow would not eat more than the 225-pound cow, which is not the case. The cow that weighs 1,000 pounds must have a certain quantity of feed to maintain the vital forces before she can turn any of her feed into milk and butter fat. After this is supplied the surplus she consumes goes either to storing up fat in her own body or to the production of butter fat.

Herein lies the difference in cows. One will not eat enough beyond the needs of her body to make much butter. Such a cow is of no value. Another will eat enough, but it is stored up in the shape of increased weight. This kind of a cow should be sent to the butcher. Another will eat a large quantity of feed and all she consumes beyond her own needs becomes butter fat. Such a cow is the one everyone who makes butter is glad to get. Such cows dairymen should try to breed. No matter what their breeding may be they are valuable.

HOW TO PULL POSTS.

A Difficult Undertaking That is Made Easy By a Little Stratagem.

We had a lot of old posts to pull and haul off. The ground was dry and the posts came up hard. We at first thought to take a long pole and yank them out by main strength and awkwardness while the team stood by; but decided upon a different plan and took with us merely a good length of chain and a piece of 2x8-inch stuff about 30 inches long. Father drove the team and I manipulated the chain, etc. We started down on the right-hand side of and

HOW TO PULL POSTS.

close to the line of posts. In driving past a post he swung the team a little to the right, then slightly to the left, and backed a few feet, bringing left hind wheel of wagon about in line with post and within a few feet of it. One end of chain having fastened around the axle near left wheel, I hooked the other end around post close to ground, then lifted chain and set the piece of 2x8 under it with top end resting on the ground some 18 inches from post. As the team started slowly the post started skyward, then fell prostrate and was at once loaded into the wagon. When the end of the line was reached, in a short time, the job was complete and we were ready to drive off with our load of posts.

Care of Young Chicks.

Never keep any more feed before young chicks than they will eat up clean, when confined in brooder, but after you let them outside the brooder always keep dry grain food in the brooder, in a little trough, so as to entice them to return to the brooder, their only home. See that their feed trough in brooder is full before sundown. Chicks must not be overfed, especially when young. Chicks must be kept warm. Chicks must be taught correct habits in the first days of their youth. Chicks must have more attention than wheat or corn. These rules apply to chicks, ducks and turkeys.—Agricultural Epitomist.

To Keep Out Tuberculosis.

In keeping the herd of dairy cows free from tuberculosis a few general rules at least should be observed. First, know that the herd is free from the disease. Then do not bring a new cow into the herd unless she has been first tested by tuberculin. If milk is taken to a creamery and skim-milk brought brought back, do not permit it to be used till it has been pasteurized. This will not only make it safe to feed to calves, but if it is fed to pigs will also prevent the disease being spread in that direction, which means its getting a foothold on the farm. Do not under any circumstances permit strange cattle to run in the pastures or occupy the stables. Above all, do not permit a consumptive person to take care of the cows. Farmers' Review.

Advantages of Rotation.

The value of rotation of crops in preventing plant diseases has been strikingly shown in some experiments with egg-plants. One plat of ground had been grown with this crop for three successive years, when the crop was compared with that of another plat on which eggplants had been previously grown. Rot was prevalent on the old path. There were five times as many sound fruits upon the new as upon the old land. The percentages of decayed fruits were only 16 per cent., against 61 per cent.

Electricity vs. Steam.

Electricity is driving steam power out of steel works and many other big manufacturing plants, and an enormous saving is being effected.

PROF. THOMAS SHAW.

An American Farm Journal's Appreciative Words Concerning a Former Well-Known Canadian.

The department of animal husbandry is perhaps the most important chair in our western agricultural colleges and experiment stations. It is being made so by such men as Shaw of Minnesota and Henry of Wisconsin. Thomas Shaw's whole life has been devoted to a great variety of work along this line, which enables him to treat the whole field of animal husbandry from both a practical and scientific standpoint.

Of Scotch parentage, he was born at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Jan. 3, 1843, was reared on a farm, educated in the common schools, and spent 25 years in active farming on his own account. He bought his first farm with money obtained through teaching school, and achiev-

PROF. THOMAS SHAW.

ed distinction among the most successful farmers in the garden of Ontario for the intelligent and profitable management of his farm. In 1882 he established the Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal, with the aid of a brother, and edited it for seven years. He was foremost in the farmers' institute work in Ontario, and in other efforts to promote the farmers' welfare.

Mr. Shaw has always been an omnivorous reader of everything pertaining to agricultural science and practice, naturally an experimenter, a thorough student, and to a logical mind unites the all-important viewpoint of a practical farmer. Consequently, it was not long before a man of such qualifications, knowledge and abilities attracted international attention. In 1888 he was called to the chair of agriculture at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, and five years later to the chair of animal husbandry at the university of Minnesota, and experiment station. Prof. Shaw long since became recognized as an expert authority on many phases of farm practice and agricultural science. He wrote eight times in provincial contests on agricultural subjects and was awarded eight first premiums. He wrote the larger portion of First Principles in Agriculture, published in 1890 and introduced into the schools of Ontario. He is also the author of that very useful book, Weeds and Methods of Eradicating Them, 1892, also the article on sheep in Johnson's Cyclopedia, 1893.

Forage Crops Other Than Grasses is the title of a new book by Prof. Shaw. Like all his work, it is intensely practical, scientifically accurate, and very thorough. This book bids fair to have an immense influence on agricultural practice throughout America, as it points out an almost new branch of farm practice that is certain to be very profitable. Comparatively few farmers realize the immense quantity of forage for pasturing that can be grown by using the right crops in the right way. Dr. Shaw's book also has the great merit of being based on his own actual experience, as well as summarizing the best in all other practice and science on this important subject.

There is also in press at the present time Prof. Shaw's latest work, The Study of Breeds, which will doubtless at once become the accepted authority on all the pedigreed and swine. There is nothing like it, either for the student or the farmer and breeder. It condenses into a handy volume and orderly arrangement all the essential facts known about the different breeds. The Study of Breeds is above all impartial and unbiased, as well as strictly accurate. The work is, moreover, right up to date, embodying for the first time the results of all the expert work and tests with the various breeds of late years, not only in America but abroad.—Orange Judd Farmer and American Agriculturist.

Working Young Horses.

A colt should be thoroughly broken the winter before he is two years old, and should be driven occasionally, both singly and with another horse, to keep in practice what he has learned, as well as to furnish the exercise required to keep his muscles in good condition. If put to work it should be only of the lightest character, and especial care should be taken at first not to gall the shoulders where the collar presses. All the work a two-year-old colt will do without injury costs about as much as it is worth in extra care given to the young animal that it does not injure him.

Packing Apples for Export.

Apples for export should be honestly and tightly packed with sound fruit; sample barrels are entirely emptied in the presence of buyers. They should be packed in clean packages, well coopered, and the head of the barrel should be neatly stenciled with the name of the variety, grade and some shipping mark; the English law also requires the letters "U.S.A." to be on every barrel shipped to that country. Export apples should be shipped as soon as practicable after packing, and if held in storage for a considerable length of time should be entirely repacked. The best varieties for export are the hard and best colored fruit.—C. R. Lawrence.

SORE MOUTH IN PIGS.

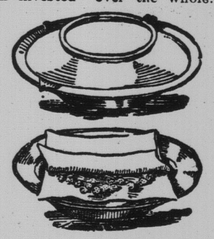
A Dangerous Disease Unless Radical Steps Are Taken at Once.

Canker, or nursing sore mouth, is a troublesome disease, and if not promptly attended to, proves fatal, says The Swine Journal. It may, and we think it usually does, arise from impurity in the milk of the sow or from poison on her teats and udder obtained by running in tall, wet grass or poison vines. The first symptoms are lumps on the sow's udder, and sometimes sores; next will be noticed blisters on the lip, tongue and mouth of the pig; the tongue and lips become swollen, and the roof and sides of the mouth inflamed and covered with deep red or white blisters. Treatment: Catch the pig and swab its mouth out thoroughly with a solution of carbolic acid and water sufficiently strong to make the flesh upon the arm tingle. Apply it with a rag, or a small piece of sponge tied on a stick. A strong sage tea applied in the same way is good, and in addition take powdered sulphur, put it into a large straw sulphur, put it into a large straw, hold the pig's mouth open and blow the dry sulphur in. Apply these remedies frequently and bathe the sow's teats and udder with a weak solution of carbolic acid. Keep litters that have it away from other pigs. Care, close attention and the frequent application of the above remedies will rarely fail to cure if taken in time. The sow should be fed sulpgur in her slops.

TESTING THE SEEDS.

How the Farmer Can Make a Germinator at Home.

Most seed dealers now make germination tests before putting their seeds on the market. Consumers will also find it much to their advantage to test the viability of seeds, but as a rule they have the impression that seed-testing requires elaborate apparatus and some complicated scientific process to conduct it successfully. That this opinion is inaccurate is shown by the home-made germinator seen in cut, reproduced from Circular No. 18, issued by the division of botany, United States Department of Agriculture. A piece of moist flannel is placed on a plate, the seeds put on the flannel, a second piece of moist flannel being laid over them, and a second plate is then invested over the whole. A

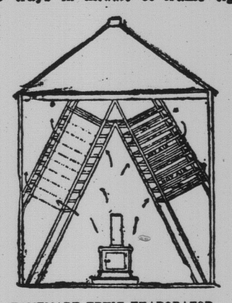


HOMEMADE GERMINATOR.

certain number of seeds should be carefully counted out, and the germinating ones removed and counted as fast as they appear. In testing crimson clover, if the seed is good, 80 to 90 per cent.. should sprout within three days. Most failures with it are due to old seed, but even fresh seed may be of poor quality. It should always be tested.

Homemade Fruit Evaporator.

Several years ago we made the following dryer for fruit. Having a smokehouse 8x10 feet frame, we put up a frame as shown in cut. Made trays of stuff 1x2 inch, double thickness with galvanized screen between, ¼ or ½ inch mesh is best (but even painted fly screen will do); corner frame to lap; trays 80x86 inch; trays rest on one slat on each side and slide in and out like a drawer. Put in a box stove (our heating stove); run stove pipe up back of trays; cut opening in roof to insure some draft over fruit; close frame between two top trays in middle of frame tight



HOMEMADE FRUIT EVAPORATOR.

to force air over fruit, and dried a lot of fruit with no trouble and little work to perfection. There was no expense of cash except for tray material, which need not cost much. Trays should not be closer together than 6 to 8 inches. Each tray will hold about half a bushel of fruit. We let fire go down at night and start it again in the morning until dry. Apples quarter-dried in about 18 hours. Sliced in about 12 hours and other fruit in proportion. We dried apples, prunes, cherries, pears and several kinds of berries. We open smokehouse door after meat is removed for fresh air to enter. There will be no smell of smoke at fruit drying time.—Practical Farmer.

Not Good for Ensilage.

A small experimental silo was filled with cut turnips and heavily weighted. The material contained 9.50 per cent. dry matter. The experiment was tried in mid-winter, with cold turnips and in a cold room. There was no appreciable rise in temperature, and all went well for about two weeks, when the mass gave way and fell in. There was too little dry matter, particularly of a fibrous nature, to hold together the mass. The result was as expected, and the moral is, Don't.—Vermont Station Bulletin.

FARM TELEPHONES.

Northeastern Ohio Furnishes an Object Lesson in Quick an Easy Rural Communication.

Northeastern Ohio is noted for its rural telephone service, and especially is this true of Geauga County, although strictly an agricultural county, says The Orange Judd Farmer. Not only is there an office in every township, but hundreds of farmers and business men have 'phones in their homes. So numerous are the wires that they have been likened to a gigantic spider's web covering the whole country.

One of the local companies, known as the Bainbridge Telephone Company, bears the distinction of being exclusively a farmers' company, it being operated by eight farmers, who own everything, from franchise to switchboard. This company was organized two years ago. Each stockholder owns one-eighth interest, and all sharing equally the assessments and dividends. A constitution and code of rules were framed and adopted, officers were elected, consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and general manager. The latter has the general supervision of the lines, such as purchasing material, constructing, repairing, setting instruments,

INTERIOR OF TELEPHONE OFFICE.
Showing operator and switchboard.

etc. The other officers perform such duties as are customary in their respective offices. All are elected for one year. Four regular meetings are held annually, and special meetings are called by the president when necessary.

The primary object in constructing the lines was not to build them as an investment, but as a help in the transaction of our business as farmers, and to give our families some of the social privileges that are too often lacking on the farm. We buy all our material at wholesale, usually paying cash, thereby saving the cash discount. Cedar poles 25 feet long and 5 to 6 inches in diameter at top end, are used on all long lines. On short lines we use some chestnut and black walnut, but being so much heavier and harder to climb are not satisfactory. The poles are set 4 to 4½ feet deep and from 200 to 225 feet apart, varying the distance to avoid interfering with buildings, lawns, gateways and other places where poles would be undesirable to the land owner. Good painted cross-arms are securely fastened to the poles with lag bolts. Special telephone wire varying in size from Nos. 9 to 12 is used. This comes in coils containing one-half mile, and is vastly better than common wire.

We use only the best long-distance telephones, both of the series and the bridging bell patterns. The latter are better talkers, but seem to get out of order more easily than the others. A modern 100-drop switchboard is centrally located in the home of one of the company, who with the help of his family attends to this work very satisfactorily. Upon retiring for the night the operator switches on the electrical night bell, which is located in his sleeping room. A call on any wire during the night immediately sets this bell ringing, and it continues to ring until the call is answered by the operator. By this arrangement an absolute day and night service is secured, which is indispensable in cases of emergency. A record is kept of all the toll messages each day, whether sent or received, and at the end of each month a statement is prepared for each company with which we connect and balances settled.

The rental price ($12 a year in advance or $1.25 by the month) entitles the subscriber, his family, hired help and company the free use of our lines and those with which we have reciprocity contracts. Beyond this a low rate of toll is charged, varying from 10c to 20c, according to distance. Our treasurer goes all around once in three months and makes collections. The low rate of rental is only made possible in the country by placing several 'phones on each circuit, usually one street or neighborhood are on the same wire, each one having his own signal or ring as we call it. While it is possible, with the best instruments, to put a large number on the same circuit, we find that from four to eight at most are enough to insure first-class service, without becoming too "mixy." Electrical storms cause us some trouble, but thus far the damage has been exceedingly small. "Cross talk" or the induction between parallel wires is by far the worst thing with which we contend, and can only be avoided by a transposed metallic circuit with from one to four transpositions per mile. A liberal use of insulated wire prevents the singing of the wires in cold weather.

We started with three subscribers outside of the company, and now have over 50, with 30 miles of poles, and 100 of wire. Reciprocity arrangements give us the free use of 150 more 'phones, including a village of 3,000 population.

Good Horses in Demand.

For good horses there will always be a good price going, for if a man cannot sell them in this country, he can sell them in some other country, and the dealers in that country are only too glad to send their representatives to Canada to buy them; but it is only horses of great excellence that they will surely buy, and to raise this sort should be the aim of every breeder, no matter what sort of stock he has his money in. For one really high-class horse there will always be two buyers.

PLAIN COMMOM SENSE.

Really Nothing Else is Required to Raise Healthy Calves.

In all my experience I never lost but one young calf while it was sucking its dam. That was many years ago when Hungarian grass first put in an appearance with us, and the hay fed to the cow killed the calf, writes a contributor to Homestead. The milk caked in the calf's stomach. My experience has always been to restrict the feed of the cow for two or three weeks before calving, and if this is properly done I think there will, as a rule, be no scours in the calf. The fatter the cow the more care is necessary. I have had cows come in that were fit for the butcher's block, and have allowed the calves to take all the milk they would, and this, too, without harm to them. When the cow is not on grass I feed hay, and not too much, with no grain whatever for at least a week before calving. I also give a little wheat bran every other day for the sake of its regulating effect. Let the cow get a little hungry at this time, and it will not hurt her, while it will benefit the calf. This way of feeding with me has always got the cow and her milk in such a condition that the calf can have all it wants of it, and I only take away what is left. Sometimes the calf may be a little constipated, and when this is so feed more bran and all will come right. With me the question has not been so much the quantity as the quality of milk that makes the healthy calf. I invariably leave the cow and calf together for the first week or two.

During the month of May the cow should be on the grass, but as calving time draws near she should be in the stable at night. In June, when the grass should be at its best, look out for milk fever. If you have a lot where the grass is short and not too plentiful, that is the best place for her. The main idea that I would impress is when the cow is fat and has been fed high for about three weeks before calving, the rich feed must be taken away or scours in the calf will follow. You may think it an epidemic or call it what you will, but I am satisfied this is the cause that kills many a calf and what will kill one will kill more. I think the idea here advanced applies to horses and hogs as well. As to sheep, I know nothing about them.

Swedish Ducks.

The blue Swedish ducks originated in the extreme northern part of Europe, and it is claimed are a cross of the common German farm duck and the Rouen, having received additional blood from the wild blue teal.

They are very hardy, can stand any climate and produce eggs on almost nothing, says The American Agriculturist. They equal at least,

SWEDISH DUCKS.

if not surpass the famed urolific Indian Runners as layers. This is the case with us anyway. Their young are hardy from the start and seem to thrive even under bad conditions. They will live under mistreatment when Pekins will get cramps or rheumatism.

As to size they fully equal any Pekin or Aylesbury that ever lived, and the meat, having teal and Rouen blood, is surpassingly tender and well flavored; no stringy, oily meat like fattened Pekin ducklings. Their delicately blue plumage is nicely set off with a pure white bib, and I know there is no prettier duck anywhere.

How to Get Top Prices.

To get the advantage of full market prices for eggs nothing is more important than the style of the cases and packing. Of course size and cleanness are very important considerations, but the first thing that strikes the eye of a purchaser is the exterior quality. I notice many lots of eggs, especially from the south, which come into the stores in all sorts of cases—scarcely two alike, and none of them neat and trim. These goods are generally condemned before they are looked at and can only be sold at a concession, no matter how good the eggs may be. Shippers may accept it as a fact that while all the eggs in first-class packages may not sell at top prices, no eggs in second or third class packages will do so.—N. Y. Produce Review.

Producing Early Peaches.

Mr. J. H. Hale, the great American peach grower, is reported to have said that he gets peaches two weeks earlier by the following method: In the middle of the growing season put a strong wire around a large arm of a tree and twist it fairly tight. This checks the flow of sap and causes fruit buds to form early and in great number. The fruit on the branches of this arm will ripen two weeks earlier than that on the untreated branches and will be much more highly colored. But this part of the tree will be so weakened by the treatment that it should be cut away after fruiting, that new shoots may come and take its place. Thus one large arm or limb of a tree may be forced each year.

Making Use of Weeds.

A crop of weeds that are nearly matured, but which have not produced seeds, is one that will pay if it is plowed under. Even weeds can thus be put to good use if rightly handled, but the farmer who allows a single weed to produce seed multiplies his work in the future. There is no waste of time in killing weeds, as no work on the farm pays better if future labor is considered.