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RURAL NOTES.

"WILDEST enthusiasts," *The National Live Stock Journal* remarks, make "extravagant claims" for the silo system.

GENERALLY speaking, early culture is the most successful, and early maturing crops are the reliable ones. The early market, too, usually gives the top prices.

THE best time to dig a well is during a severe drought, and if a good vein is then reached, little fear need be entertained that the supply will fail.—*N. E. Farmer.*

ALL honey not in the comb is looked upon with suspicion. Comb honey, too, has not escaped, although the efforts to adulterate it have so far not been very successful.—*American Cultivator.*

LARGER loads can be hauled with broad wheels, and if the meadows are soft these wheels do not sink into the sod and cut it up as the present narrow tires will do.

THE best renovator for meadows and pasture land is barnyard manure, evenly scattered with fork and harrow. It is a complete fertilizer, containing in goodly proportion the three substances needed by growing crops—nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash.

To test seeds, a certain number should be counted out and planted in a box or flower-pot, keeping them in a warm room. By counting the number that grow, the germinating qualities can be very nearly ascertained, and thus sometimes a complete failure prevented.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

ONE of the best rules for planting out an orchard is to select chiefly the kinds that are known to do well in one's own neighbourhood. A great many trees have been lost in the northern counties of the Province through the practice of choosing such varieties as do well only in the southern counties.

FARMERS have much to learn concerning the value of small fruits. They are profitable and certain, the labour of cultivating them is comparatively light, and there is a market for them everywhere. No labour on the farm is so well repaid as that spent in raising grapes, strawberries, raspberries and currants.

THE imports of live cattle into Great Britain the first two months of this year show a considerable increase over the number in corresponding time the last two years. More fresh beef was

imported than last year, but not nearly as much as in 1881. The imports of bacon and lard were smaller, as were those of cheese, butter showing some increase.

It costs money to build and maintain good country roads; but, if carefully laid out, it is money well invested. The most valuable and saleable farms are those lying along the best roads. To improve the roads, therefore, is a sure way to increase the value of farms. The best of land is worth little for farming purposes if shut out from the world.

THE Niagara grape is said to be the best variety grown in western New York. It is a strong grower, withstands drouth, insects and disease, is remarkably productive, ripens early, and hangs fresh and plump for a long time after ripening, ships and keeps well, and has an excellent flavour. All these qualities should make the Niagara a favourite with grape growers.

WHEN we feed cattle, we place the food where the animals in a natural position can reach it with the greatest ease. The same common sense practice holds good in providing food for plants. Some send their roots deep into the soil, and others send them near the surface. The manure should be so applied as to be most available and accessible to the feeders of the plant.

THE island of Jersey, which has given to the world the Jersey breed of cattle, has an area of only fifty square miles. Yet, it supports 12,000 cows, the animals being kept in stables all the year, and every particle of manure is saved. Their principal food in winter is parsnips, and this food has probably developed the butter quality which gives the Jersey cow its distinct reputation.

THE Vermont farmers are noted for the attention they pay to dairy interests, and in the last fourteen years they have increased the average butter yield of cows by fifty pounds. This has been accomplished mainly by better feeding, and especially by adopting the soiling and ensilage systems. The cost is no more than under the old plan, and consequently the increase is all clear profit.

THEY are trying in New South Wales for Government aid to eradicate the naturalized cactus, a mischievously prolific plant popularly known as "prickly pear." The rapidity with which it spreads is illustrated by the statement (perhaps not wholly disinterested) of one advocate of the "appropriation," that whereas \$250 would have sufficed thirty years ago to rid the colony of it, "a million sterling" will soon be little enough for such a purpose.

THE *Gardener's Monthly* says: "It has only recently been clearly demonstrated that a dead branch on a tree makes almost as great a strain on the main plant for moisture, as does a living one. This is one of the most important discoveries of modern botanical science to the practical horticulturist, as by this knowledge he can save many a valuable tree. A dead branch, or a weak one, should be at once cut away."

WE believe there is, or ought to be, a farmer's side to the tariff question. The increased duties on reapers, mowers, waggons, ploughs, etc., are certainly no gain to the farmer. They don't assure him better or cheaper implements, and no better market for his produce. Farmers will begin to think that it is time they had a voice in the framing of tariffs, as well as some other people—especially the farmers of our great North-West empire.

LIGHTNING followed a single strand of barbed wire with which a pasture fence was supplemented; "passed down nearly every post on the north side of the field, a distance of about thirty-five rods," and finally down a tree to which the wire was stapled, killing a cow on the way, "the indications being unmistakable," a correspondent of *The Michigan Farmer* says, "that she stood under the tree with her head near or just under the wire."

THE *American Cultivator* says that above all things else it is necessary that there be a general understanding that large crops are always proportionately more profitable than small crops, that within certain limits a given amount of products can be grown more cheaply on five acres than on ten. When this fact is properly appreciated the popular craze to secure more land will be abated, and better culture of fewer acres will take the place of the present system of half tillage over large acres.

GEORGE WHITFIELD, of Rougemont, Que., and Geary Bros., of London, had an important sale of thoroughbred cattle at Chicago recently, including Polled Angus and Aberdeens, Galloways, Shorthorns and Herefords. The Angus and Aberdeens were the favourites by long odds—twenty-two bulls selling at an average of \$474, while the average of twelve Herefords was \$190, and that of eleven Shorthorns only \$97. The latter were not in condition to command the best prices, but it is evident that the present rage among prairie farmers is for the Angus and Aberdeens. It is saying much for Canadian breeders that they are supplying the American demand for thoroughbreds on so large a scale, for it is the fact that farmers in the western States are mainly dependent on Canadians for improved stock.