

Farm Furrows.

The draft horse is just now the popular horse and is in demand for city use at higher prices than any other stock.

Next to a shredder an old threshing machine will put fodder in a good condition to feed. In fact some farmers claim that it is even better.

It is not difficult for me to judge who knows most about bringing up the boys—the maiden aunt with her theory or the father with the sad fact of his past. The father was once a boy.

This is a year when the force of gravitation (or some other force) that draws all the large apples to the top of the barrel should fail to operate. There is certainly no need for the large apples getting only in the top of the barrel this year.

If a horse has the heaves feed less hay and more grain and water him before feeding. A horse with the heaves should not be worked hard for an hour after eating and to much should not be expected of him. Feed wet feed when it is convenient.

A dark soil absorbs the rays of the sun faster than the light soil and thus makes it warmer. This difference in temperature affects the germination and growth of plants. In the spring when the corn is coming up the rows are usually seen first in the dark soil.

You've no doubt had a hog get contrary when loading in a wagon. Well, a very good way is to put an ordinary zinc basket over his head and he will back up to try to get his head out of it and by following him up with the basket he will be backed into the wagon before he knows it. Try it.

A neighbor recently said to me "I need another team but horses are so high that I can't afford to buy." I have been wondering what he would think if he had a good pair of horses to sell. He would be glad prices are high. It is easy to see why a farmer should be a seller of good horses rather than a buyer.

A German scientist claims to have discovered why grain lodges, and he believes it is possible to breed varieties that will not lodge. He says that in a normal or ideal stem the internodes from the lower to the upper increase in length and decrease in strength, according to a definite law, which gives to each internode the average length and strength of the one immediately below and the one immediately above it. Grain is said to lodge when the law of arithmetical average with reference to the internodes is disturbed.

A beef club is usually composed of about fourteen members. A beef is cut into fourteen pieces, seven on a side. Each member of the club furnishes a beef, usually a two-year-old heifer. One man does all the killing and he gets the hide for his work. The pieces are cut by the butcher, weighed and numbered from one to fourteen. The members are numbered and at the start No. 1 gets piece No. 1 and the next time No. 1 gets piece No. 2, and by so doing all will eventually get the different parts of a beef. The heart, liver and tongue should go to the owner of the beef.

Judging by the actions of some farmers one is inclined to the belief that the farmer is the only man who hunts competition. These men are regretting the decrease in the number of men engaged in farming. They would have an increase in the number and likewise an increase in competition. What is needed is an increase in the population of consumers and not producers of food. The amount of food is limited and is low enough in price. Farm values depend on the income from land. Income depends on the demand for food. That demand depends on the number of consumers.

Why Winter Dairying Pays.

To be the most profitable, dairying must be carried on the whole year. There is no profit in having creameries and cheese factories closed up half the year, and a lot of cows eating up the food supply and giving no milk. Dairy products command the highest

prices of the year during the fall and winter months, and the lowest during the summer. The farmer who dairies through summer only is obliged to content himself with low prices. Then, too, he has to fight flies, hot weather and short pastures. His cows are idle at a time of year when it costs most to feed them and no return for food and care.

If cows are allowed to freshen in the fall, say the latter part of September or first of October, they begin to produce at a time when fall grass is tender and fresh from fall rains, the flies have ceased to annoy, and dairy products are on the rise. By good care and judicious feeding the milk flow can be kept up right through until May. Pasture grass will carry them up to July or later, when they should go dry until last of September. This is year-round dairying, and cows are dry when heat, flies and short pastures are present, and when the farmer is busy with his harvest and has little time to look after the comfort of his animals.

Cows that have previously been milked during the summer only and allowed to dry up at the first appearance of cold weather, will not at first take kindly to a ten months milking period, but by continuing the practice through one year they will respond more readily the next year and give more milk.

Heifers that freshen for the first time should do so in the spring and be milked right through the following winter and up to July. They should be bred the second time in December, which will land them in the winter dairy with their second calf, and they have been taught to give milk all the time by the long milking period with their first calf.

A little thought of this kind put into practice in carrying on the dairy will pay big in dollars in the long run.

Electricity on the Farm.

Some one has said that we are changing from the age of steam to the age of electricity; that our known deposits of coal are diminishing rapidly, and that, of necessity, we must conserve fuel and create motive power by the application of other energy. More and more the fall and force of water is to be used to perform the tasks of man. Electric power, in many instances, is either duplicating or supplanting the use of steam.

To the door of steam power one man places many charges for much of the mischief which has been done by packing population in the cities of our country. Steam power, he charges, was in many ways responsible for the rapid increase in urban population in the century between 1790 and 1890. In 1790 the urban population of the United States was but three and one-third per cent; the rural population numbering ninety-six and two-thirds per cent. In 1890 the percentage of the population in the cities was about thirty per cent or a substantial growth of twenty-six or twenty-seven per cent. The population which should have remained or have been sent to till the soil was used to man the large factories which removed the old time industries of the homes and localities to the crowded cities. We are told that the reaction is now on. That "those industries which were taken away from homes by steam power are returning, to be done by electric power. Articles of clothing, as well as cheese and butter, are once more becoming matters of domestic industry."

We are indisposed to lay so many grave charges against that force which since the time of James Watt has done so much for the world, and for the United States in particular. And great as is that mysterious something which we call electricity, yet we cannot ascribe to its immediate future all the possibilities and probabilities which our authority would like. It is enough to point out that it has been among the agencies which the spirit of our times has employed to abolish farm isolation. Electricity runs our trolley cars up and down our valleys to carry passengers and produce to and from the cities. The same force is again employed to transmit our messages over the rural telephone lines. And for this advantage we can praise, alone, the enthusiasm and enterprise of local men who dared establish rural lines in the face of discouragements and refusals from the old established companies. None of our improvements are brought about by a single force but are rather caused by the brain of man which used the force as the means to an end. To men and enterprise, and not to electricity, the praise belongs.

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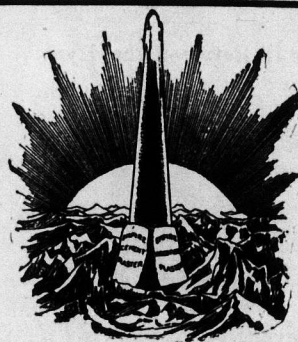
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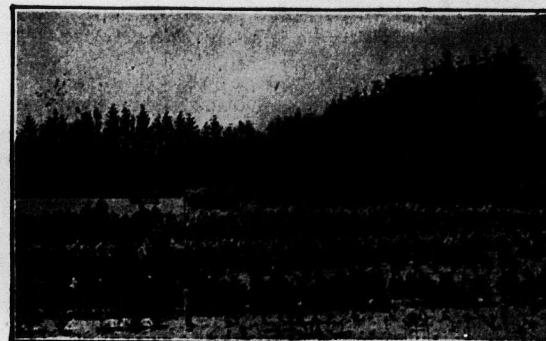
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