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HOME AND FARM.

The following experiences of a practical onion-grower, addressed to the *Maine Farmer*, are well worth perusal as showing the money there is in careful onion cultivation:—I have had some little experience in raising onions from the seed, never failing of producing good onions, and while it is more difficult to manage this crop successfully than almost any other, and requires a good degree of patience as well as carefulness in all its minor details, yet I rather like the work, as well as the onions, and admire seeing them gradually developing from the tiny weakling just breaking ground, to the large, globe-like fellows rolling up their well rounded sides to the early October sun. Last season I measured off eleven square rods of ground and sowed two varieties, Yellow Danvers and Red Globes. These two varieties seem to come up to my ideal of perfection, and I do not propose to show any partiality in favor of either. Those to whom I sell my Red Globe onions are always glad to have more of them, and my customers who purchase the Yellow Danvers are sure to be after them again. And I cannot detect any material difference in the yield nor earliness. Onions were comparatively cheap the past season and were not up to an average, but I sold off from the eleven rods, onions to the amount of \$44.37, making no account of not a few given away and those used in the family. We allow the children to eat all that they will, positively sure that the onion is the most wholesome product of the farm, and if you want healthy children, give them full and free access to the onion patch while they are growing and to the onions after they are stored.

Four dollars to the square rod makes \$640 to the acre, a good showing for a year of depressed prices. But isn't there a large amount of nice work, comparatively, in raising onions? Certainly there is, but the advantage arises from the concentration of a large amount of paying work on a small amount of land. Now I will come to the possibility of this crop. I measured precisely one-half of a square rod, the best part of the piece, and gathered from the half rod three bushels and one fourth of onions. This is at the rate of 1,040 bushels to the acre. I sold them for \$1.25 per bushel, \$4 06 from one-half of a square rod, \$1,300 per acre. This of course is the golden side of onion raising, but "what has been done once can be done again."

Professor Samuel Johnston, Michigan Agricultural College, says:—I should prefer to buy wheat, bran, oil-meal and other commercial foods for cattle rather than commercial fertilizers.

If farming must always mean the struggle of an ignorant man over a few acres with a hut, a poor horse and a potato patch, the intelligent young men will be drawn to the city. But farming may mean in the country what merchandising means in the city—the rush of ambitious, thoughtful men.

FARM ECONOMY.—A mixture of kerosene and lampblack is a good application to keep steel surfaces bright.

If the whiffletree breaks, don't throw it into a corner. Remove the irons. They can be fitted to new wood.

The farther you are from market the greater is your need of condensing products by feeding grain and stover to animals.

By keeping the cattle off the pasture one day longer in the spring you may keep them upon it two days longer in the fall.

A handy thing to have is a box containing an assortment of bolts, nuts, rivets, nails, and a hammer, pinchers and coldchisel.

The paint brush that proved to be a bargain was cleaned in turpentine each time its work was done, dried and hung up by its handle.

Keep a few panes of window glass and a paper of tacks or some putty on hand. When the window pane is broken, don't make-shift; replace it.

The rough bark on old apple trees is unsightly, and scraping it off gives them a much more presentable appearance. The benefit from this, however, is doubtful. Generally the man who gets to thinking so seriously about his apple orchard as to scrape the rough bark off from old trees, is apt to go farther, and add a load or half a load of manure. This last is undoubtedly helpful, so if the farmer who has been hitherto negligent goes to work about his apple trees, let us say nothing to discourage him. Almost anything is better for an apple tree than neglect. There is nothing in the idea that this rough bark is needed to protect the trees from cold. It is the most unsubstantial kind of an overcoat, and if the tree is not hardy without it we cannot fairly expect it to be hardy with it. Scraping trees now serves one valuable purpose. It uncovers many larvae of codling moth and other injurious insects, which if brought out from their hiding places in winter are sure to perish by exposure to wet while unable to protect themselves.

Success in stock husbandry depends largely upon how freely one turns off the older animals and replaces them with younger stock raised specially to keep the ranks full. The surest profit is in the direction of younger animals and many of them, moderate prices and ready sales. Till a cow reaches full maturity she is gaining in value in both size and milk product, after that the profit from her keeping must all be from one source. Hens pay better the first eighteen months of their lives than they will ever be likely to afterwards. Pigs make pork at less cost while they are less than ten months old than after they are in their second year.

It is satisfactory to learn that the Canadian horse has thoroughly established his good reputation in England as a valuable remount. A permanent Remount Commission has recently been appointed for the British Cavalry. Its permanence will ensure, as it goes on, a continuous experience which