

FARMER.

DAY PAYS BET-
TEEN.

Work Cheap. Profit of Over
Fifty Cent-Notes on the Care of
Live Stock—To Lessen the Work of the
Wife, Sister and Daughter on the Farm.

Adam Jones, master of the State Grange of Indiana, says: "I am convinced that one of the greatest mistakes farmers make is in trying to work too many hours each day; better and more satisfactory results will follow from 10 hours per day than by trying to work 12 or 14 hours. I am not certain but eight hours, when we have all things systematically arranged, will be better than the longer day. The hours saved from physical labor, if devoted to intellectual, moral and social culture, will make as much more, aside from the greater and nobler aims of life. The question is worthy of the most careful investigation of every grange in the State. A good part of each meeting should be devoted to developing a method or system of the work of the house, to lessen the work of the wife, daughter and sister. The work in the house should not be longer than on the farm, and as far as possible the drudgery and unpleasant parts of house-keeping should be overcome by system, conveniences and labor-saving devices. The grange is the first and only great order that has recognized the abilities of women and placed her in all things on a plane of equality in all respects to men. Our time, thought and labor should be equally given to aid her in making her duties less arduous and more cheerful and pleasant, and to surrounding the home with the refining influences of culture, education, music and flowers. Then she will ever bless the day she joined the grange, and her work and devotion to you and the grange will add to your prosperity and the happiness of the entire household. Her earnest work for the grange will cause it to prosper as never before, and will make it a great power in the land."

Making Pork Cheaply.

An instance of successful feeding at the Minnesota experimental station is given as follows: Fifty-four pigs were fattened on the 15th of April. As soon as large enough they were turned with the sows in an 80-acre lot, where there were temporary sheds for shelter. Here they were fed liberally with screenings, sometimes cooked, and when not cooked well soaked and fed sweet, and in September a little green corn. When weighed at 23 months old the pigs weighed 41 pounds, and had cost (including feed for sows) 60 cents per head. \$1.25 per 100 pounds. The screenings cost 30 cents per hundredweight. During October they were fed corn on the cob and slops made from screenings meal, and after that until January 25th nothing but corn on the cob and cold water. From then until March 14th, when they were fed shelled corn, either boiled or soaked. Up to December 25th the total cost of feed had been \$147.68, and the pigs then weighed 11,390 pounds, and had cost (for feed) \$1.30 per 100 pounds, and at that time could have been sold at 34 cents, or at a total profit of \$249.92. Up to January 18th the feed had cost \$299, and the total weight was 13,380 pounds, having then cost \$1.53 per 100 pounds, and could then have been sold at 32 cents, giving a total profit of \$230. Upon March 14th, the cost had been \$280.40, and the total weight was 15,820, the cost per 100 pounds then being \$1.77. They sold then at 4 cents, bringing \$632.80, or a total profit of \$352.40. At any time they could have been sold at a profit.

Farm and Live Stock Notes

Milk that does not readily part with its cream is better for market.

When you grow mutton you compete with your neighbors; when you grow wool you compete with the world.

The poultry-keeper who has a generous milk supply has a better "egg-food" than any patented compound he can buy.

The price at which a farm will sell for is regulated by its nearness to market, and the quality of its neighborhood roads. To increase the selling price of your farm, work for good roads.

In selecting a coach stallion to breed to, don't be fooled with the fact that he is imported. Many poor horses have been imported. Choose him for individual merit as well as pedigree.

Give the restless boy a piece of ground on which to raise popcorn or some other special crop next year, and offer him a premium if he exceeds a certain yield. Then help him sell it when prices rule highest and you have won him for agriculture.

Good roads are a profitable investment in any part of the country, and after the harvesting season is over it will pay to make some plans to grade, plow and drain them, to get them in good condition for winter. A great deal of farm work can be done early in the spring if the roads are good, but, better than all, strangers will be more apt to buy land in rural districts where well kept roads are a specialty. The value of property is always enhanced in such districts.

To kill fungus growth in the cellar, pour two ounces of sulphuric acid over one ounce of common salt. This generates hydrochloric acid. Close all the doors and windows closely, and do not allow any of it to escape into the rooms above, and do not enter it for 24 hours. Then ventilate from the bottom to the top (this gas is heavier than air, and settles to the bottom) without remaining long in it, and if possible without entering it, as one cannot breathe this acid. It kills all vegetation.

The Javars are not bred extensively, but they are hardy and vigorous. They greatly resemble the Plymouth Rocks in size, but are black (though the white Javars and mottled Javars are also distinct breeds), and may really be termed black Plymouth Rocks. But for the prejudice against black breeds, the Java fowl would hold a high place, as it is one of the hardiest of breeds and adapts itself to all climates. The hens are excellent layers and setters, and as mothers they are very careful and successful with their chicks.

Attending the sales and noting how low pure-bred cattle sold—all being rated at what there was in them for beef purposes—and after many years feeding and experimenting with all grades of cattle, Prof. J. W. Santborn declares that a large percentage of pure-bred cattle are superior only in form, and are inferior for meat production as compared with common cattle. He joins with the farmers, and says they are not fools, nor so far out of the way in their judgment as to the real practical value of the pure breeds. "The error has been largely on the side of the breeders, and the good time for which they are hoping will never come until 60 or 70 per cent. of the females now recorded are swept off from the herd books and out of the breeding lists with a heavier per cent. of bulls."

Like individual character the farm never remains the same for any long time. If not improving it is necessarily retrograding.

The longer improvement is delayed the less easy it is to make a beginning. Yet in the West the process of soil exhaustion from which Eastern farmers have suffered began with its first cultivation, even when the farmer was one who left the soil to secure new and fertile soil. If a system of carefully saving manure and frequent seeding with clover had been adopted at the first it would have been much easier to retain fertility than it can be when lost to restore it. But the cheapness of fertile soil inevitably leads to its despoliation. What inducement is there to maintain fertility when the crop of a single year will buy as much fertile land as it was grown upon? High prices for land are therefore helps to good farming. They make it necessary to grow on few acres what used to be grown on a great many.

The Great Armies of Europe.

The ablest and most interesting military writer in the United States, and one of the foremost of our time, is Col. Theodore A. Dodge, U. S. A. retired list. Col. Dodge spent the winter in Europe, making a personal study of all the great armies, and the results of his observations he contributes in an interesting article to the July number of The Forum. More than 18,000,000 men stand ready for battle in Europe, and the noblest work of the world is perverted to ignoble uses. Europe, as Col. Dodge shows, has never been so perilously prepared for war as now, but he reports that there has never been a time when soldiers were so loath to fight, and he does not look for an early outbreak of hostilities. In reviewing the several armies of Europe, Col. Dodge frankly declares that the English cannot now claim to be a military power. In fact, England has had no war for nearly eighty years that is of more importance than our conflicts with the Indians in the West. Incidentally he remarks that the self-gratulations of the English about their army is a curious national trait. They think, for instance, that the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava was an unprecedented feat. The fact is that less than 77 per cent. of those that rode "into the jaws of death" perished, whereas in our own Civil War more than sixty regiments lost in some one engagement more than 50 per cent., and one regiment lost as much as 82 per cent. On the sea, however, England's power is still great.

The greatest danger that Col. Dodge sees to the peace of Europe is in Russia's restless pushing across Asia. The Anatians are liking for Russia, whose autocratic government they understand better than the government of England. Russia does not seek war, but she will not rest from her encroachments eastward, and this may precipitate a general conflict. The Russian army, by the way, is one of the best in Europe in a great many respects.

Col. Dodge devotes much space to a detailed comparison of the French army with the German army, with much praise for both, but with a tendency to give the most complimentary word to the Germans. He declares, however, that the French army was never in such good condition as now, and that under Napoleon it was at no time as thoroughly sound.

One treacherous factor in the whole problem is the absence of any great commanding military mind such as there was in Europe, of course, before Von Moltke died; for in modern warfare more than at any time in the past is the ability of great military genius the decisive factor. Col. Dodge declares that Germany is hampered by the loss or the shelving of her great men, and she does not know when the Kaiser may fall. This fact is recognized, if not openly spoken of, everywhere in Germany.

These and many other interesting observations, which are the result of Col. Dodge's study on the ground of his long acquaintance with most of the leading officers in all the European armies, make his essay of unusual interest, not only to the military and political student, but to the general reader as well.

The Foremost Living English Novelist.

Mr. William Sharp, the English author and critic, who recently made a visit to the States, has written a personal and critical article about Thomas Hardy and his novels for July Forum, in which an interesting picture is drawn of the foremost living English master of fiction. "No one can approach English fiction critically," says Mr. Sharp, "and fail to perceive that Thomas Hardy is, at his best, one of the most remarkable novelists whom England has produced." Then follows this picture of his home:

"Mr. Hardy resides in the heart of the 'five-counted Wessex.' His home is a large red brick house built after his own designs, situated on the site of a long upland sweep to the eastward of Dorchester. A vast perspective is before one from almost any of the windows of the house, rolling downs, acres of arable land and pastures, upland ranges, and dark belts of woodland, with, valleyward, the white gleam of the Frome meandering among the dairy lands and through and past ancient Dorchester."

And the following estimate of the larger significance of his work is given: "But Hardy brings home to the reader a sense of profound sadness. Without ever unduly obtruding himself as the theologian or the philosopher, he touches the deepest chords of spiritual life, and having wrought his subtle music therefrom, turns away with a loving, sorrowful regret at all the by-play of existence beneath such dim darkness behind, above, and beyond. Yet to speak of him as a pessimistic writer would be misleading, because inadequate. He does not preach pessimism, for he has the saving grace of having no 'ism' to support or exemplify. He is tolerant and patient, seeing at once the good and the weakness in all. In a word, the pessimism of which so many complain is a revelation rather than an exposition."

The Opal.

The cause of the opal being deemed an unlucky gem is probably due to the nature of the stone itself. The iridescence of the opal is caused by innumerable minute cracks, which reflect the light from a thousand surfaces, and so induce the play of color. It sometimes happens that, from no known reason, the cracks enlarge and the stone splits into a number of pieces. A valuable opal has thus been known to become utterly worthless in a short time, and of a beautiful gem only a thimbleful of fragments remains. Such accidents as this have probably given rise to the idea that the opal is unlucky to own, and the superstition growing, the idea became fixed that this gem brought misfortune to its possessor.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Wanted to Peel Richer.

The colored person always sustains his actions by a moral philosophy which seems entirely satisfactory to him. An old darkey called at the local Keeley Institute the other day. "You are not a drunkard, are you, uncle?" asked the doctor in some surprise, scanning the old fellow. "No, sah; I neber tooked no me' ole Kentucky than would make me feel good, but I'm tired of being po' so long, an' I thought maybe y'd give an old man a few of dem gold shots, so I'd feel richer, an' den (lowering his voice) I see going to be a deacon ob the church, an' wants to get rid of dis yer chicken habit." —Chicago Inter-Ocean.

August.

The farmers are busy and business is usually dull at this season, Those who are looking for good value, and can spare the time, should see the following lines which are reduced to close out:

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