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### RURAL NOTES.

THE culture of Indian corn is increasing in Australia. It is said that fifteen cents per bushel covers the cost of cultivation and harvesting.

THE *Brandon Sun* says: "The process of 'jumping' has almost become a mania. The land office is daily besieged by land hunters, and its walls covered with notices to the party who made the original entry."

THE *Minneapolis Tribune* says that goats are the best land cleaners known. It mentions that a herd of 1,600 entirely cleared a piece of brush land, consisting of 500 acres, in three years. So complete was the work that not a vestige of undergrowth was left.

A NEW white potato, called Duke of Albany, is becoming very popular in England. It is a sprout of the Beauty of Hebron. Most of the American potatoes do well if taken to England, but the rule does not work both ways, as American farmers who have planted imported seed have found to their cost.

THE *Mark Lane Express* says of the fancy Shorthorns in England: "The fanciers are 'unloading' as fast as they can, and if herd sales go on as they are going the Shorthorn breed will soon be entirely out of their hands. The selling brand on Shorthorns has been, until very lately, fashionable pedigree; in the future we think it will be actual merit combined with Herd Book qualifications."

A WRITER in the *Popular Science Monthly* says that everybody has always thought that the concentric rings of trees are a record of its age, each ring representing the growth of a year, but that everybody has always been mistaken. A series of experiments effectually explodes the delusion. So it goes in these degenerate days; one after another the "arrested conceptions of the myth-makers" are dispelled.

PROFESSOR HENRY says: "I would urge that our farmers feed more oats to young stock, colts as well as calves. There is no food easily obtainable that will so well correct acidity of the stomach and keep the whole system in good order. To those who wish to raise calves on very little milk, I would say, use oats and oil meal freely, and by studying the wants of your calves you

will be able to raise fine animals on a small allowance of milk.

THE *Dublin Farmer* claims that a full feed of hay to horses, following the feeding of concentrated food, is wasteful, for the reason that it crowds the first out of the stomach before proper digestion has been accomplished. And so, in order to secure best results, hay should be fed at first and the concentrated food afterward, which leaves it to become fully digested, with no danger of being crowded away or out of the performance of its desired purpose.

A FARMER, who has used a waggon with broad tires on wheels long enough to ascertain their relative value as compared with narrow tires, writes: "A four-inch tire will carry two tons over soft ground with greater ease to the team than a two and a half inch tire will carry one ton. The wheels are not so much strained by stones and rough tracks on the road, and the road is not cut up, but, on the contrary, is packed down and keeps smooth. The prevalent idea that the draught is increased by widening the tire is altogether baseless; on the contrary, a wide tire reduces the draught. The extra cost of the tire is repaid many times over every year in the extra work that can be done by a team."

ONTARIO is exceptionally favoured, says the *Montreal Gazette*, as a grain producing province. Taking the various kinds of grain, no American State has this year equalled that Province in the average yield per acre of the cereals, notwithstanding the fact that, with the single exception of maize, which is not brought into comparison, the crops in the United States have been exceptionally good in the past season. The value of such a Bureau as that which the Ontario Government has established is adequately shown in the above comparison. As a means of promoting emigration to Canada its usefulness fully justifies the expense entailed, because no more practical or more reliable testimony to the advantages of the Province as a home for agriculturalists could well be obtained.

By attention to the following rules for the dressing of poultry, farmers will secure better prices and readier sales: "Poultry should not be fed for twenty-four hours previous to killing. Bleed well and pluck clean, leaving on the head, also the wings and tail feathers in. Entrails should not be drawn, neither should

poultry be scalded. It is easily detected, and means from one to three cents per pound reduction in value. Pack firmly in nice, clean cases holding from one to two hundred pounds. Mark each case with correct weights—gross, tare and net. Also, number and kind of birds contained, and advise the firm to whom you ship of the particulars of your consignment, that its proper delivery may be looked after; and, when this is done, satisfactory results may be confidently looked for."

HORSES that have worked constantly on the farm, or even in the family carriage, become worn and fatigued, and though well fed, begin each day's work with reluctance. They need change, they require rest and change of draught on their muscles. Let them go for a month into a good pasture; their whole system will have a grateful rest. Their muscles will relax, they will lay on flesh, and manifest such improvement as will compensate for the loss of their labour. Pull off their shoes, and let their feet come in contact with the soil. The animals need change as tired men of business need the mountain air, or the cooling sea breeze. Our domestic animals, except the horse, all have a few weeks' rest, but so dependent are we on the constant services of this animal that we cannot spare him even for a week.

THE *Mark Lane Express*, in its review of the British grain trade for the week ending Nov. 18th, says: "The weather during the week has allowed some wheat sowing, but the arrears in this work are not materially reduced. There has been a large but irregular supply of native wheat. Prices for good samples are occasionally higher. Foreign is unchanged in price. The demand is scarcely so good, and business is restricted by the firmness of sellers. Business in cargoes off coast is virtually at a standstill. There have been four arrivals and two sales. The market for cargoes on passage and for shipment closed firm and quiet. Flour was supplied freely, but the demand was inactive and prices unchanged. Foreign is dull, with laboured sale. Barley unchanged. Foreign is steady, with a hardening tendency. Oats are dearer. There was a fair trade in foreign at unchanged rates. Maize is in small supply, with retail at fancy prices. Sales of English wheat the past week, 391,388 bushels at \$1.27, against 335,288 bushels at \$1.41 the corresponding period last year."