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RURAL NOTES.

GAMBLING in grain has reached an extravagant pitch. On February 11th, the transactions in wheat at Chicago amounted to 80,000,000 bushels, about double the actual supply in the United States.

The advocates of summer-fallowing are wont to urge that it is the only effectual way to rid land of the white grub, cut-worm, and other insect sneak-thieves. But a New Jersey farmer reports that a dressing of eight bushels per acre of salt to land badly infested with white grubs, enabled him to raise good crops of corn for three years past, which was impossible previous to this application. It should also be remembered that while salt is thus bad for insects, it is good for the soil.

HON. M. H. COCHRANE, of Hillhurst Farm, Crompton, Quebec, intends to sell at Dexter Park, Chicago, April 18th, about thirty head of short-horn cattle, comprising all the Duchesses, Wild Eyes, Kirklevingtons, and Barringtons in the herd at Hillhurst, together with the Eighth Duke of Hillhurst, and Thirty-fifth Duke of Oxford. We shall watch the sale with interest, as indicating the present value of the more fashionable Short-horns in the American market.

THE State of Connecticut, says the *N. Y. Tribune*, has over fifty village societies for rural improvement, and the excellent movement is fast spreading into other States, including California. Some of the good results are thus indicated:—

“The man who asks for the practical tests can be pointed to many towns where these associations have manifestly done great good in cultivating public spirit, quickening social and intellectual life, fraternizing the people, improving the sanitary conditions, enhancing the value of real estate, and increasing the charm and attractions of domestic life.”

THERE is a fashion in the shape of apple trees, and it is as irrational as most fashions are. It demands high, bare trunks, in opposition to the natural tendency to branch near the ground. Low-branching protects the trunks from high winds and “the sun’s meridian blaze;” it keeps the trees from leaning over under the force of the prevailing winds; the limbs are less liable to be broken by fierce blasts; the crops are more easily gathered; while borers, codling moths, and other insects are less likely to gain access, and do mischief.

EXCLUSIVE dependence on clover as a fertilizer is hardly to be commended, but there is a fact that speaks volumes in regard to the value of this much-neglected means of maintaining the productivity of land. The Hon. Geo. Geddes has a field to which no barn-yard manure has been applied for seventy years. It was formerly in an

impoverished condition, but, recuperated by the use of clover and plaster, it is now in a highly fertile state; so much so, that the late John Stanton Gould once spoke of its crop of timothy as the largest he ever saw.

BOY-LIFE on the farm is too often a ceaseless round of drudgery. According to the old proverb, “All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy.” Sometimes it appears to have the effect of making him a *bad* boy. This is the purport of a “boy-convict’s” story which we find in the journal last mentioned:—

“He was reared by pious parents, who supposed that to lead a perfectly religious life they must banish everything in the shape of amusement from their doors. Their home had nothing about it to attract and interest the young, and this boy, unable to content himself longer, broke the fetters that bound him to his cold and cheerless parental roof, and launched out upon the world, where he soon fell into bad company, and then to the commission of crime.”

THE Secretary of the Elgin, Ill., Board of Trade challenges the statement that Little Falls, N. Y., is the largest dairy market in the world. He claims that Elgin leads in the number of cheeses, though not in aggregate of pounds; and that during 1881, Elgin sold 3,869,029 pounds of butter, while Little Falls only sold 1,402,122 pounds. The products at Elgin sold for \$2,209,600.04, while those at Little Falls were about “\$2,000,000.” Beside the cheese and butter there were shipped from the dairies around Elgin 150 cans of milk, each containing eight gallons, and 5,000 gallons of milk were condensed at the Elgin Condensing Factory.

MILK-PUNCH is a favourite stimulant with some ill-advised people. But, according to the *Medical Record*, hot milk is a stimulant *minus* the punch, which greatly lessens the cost, and entirely banishes the danger of the beverage:—

“Milk heated too much above 100° Fahr. loses for a time a degree of its sweetness and its density. No one who, fatigued by over-exertion of the body or mind, has experienced the reviving influence of a tumbler of this beverage, heated as hot as it can be sipped, will willingly forego a resort to it because of its being rendered less acceptable to the palate. The promptness with which its cordial influence is felt is indeed surprising. Some portion of it seems to be digested and appropriated almost immediately; and many who now fancy they need alcoholic stimulants when exhausted by fatigue, will find in this simple draught an equivalent that will be abundantly satisfying, and far more enduring in its effects.”

PROFESSOR ARNOLD, at the recent dairy convention in Woodstock, spoke of the desirableness of more exact estimates of the real feeding value of ensilage, as compared with its cost. Hon. H. C. Kelsey used much stronger language at a late meeting of the New Jersey Board of Agriculture, and pronounced the estimates given by the advocates of ensilage “extravagant and untrustworthy.” He added, that “a little more testi-

mony from the scales, and less rough guessing in this matter as well as others, would be beneficial to all concerned.” Yes: let us, by all means, have the facts and figures as they really are. The first step in every intelligent process is, to “prove all things;” and the next, to “hold fast that which is good.”

FIVE requirements have been laid down for street trees: hardiness, rapid growth, attractive appearance, umbrageousness, and adaptation. The sugar maple is the grandest of street trees, though it lacks the quality of rapid growth. In spite of this defect, however, it must and will take the lead. The linden, or basswood, has all the characteristics of a good street tree, including that of rapid growth, which the maple lacks. It is also peculiarly valuable because, next to the white clover, it is the best source of honey that we have in this country. If its excellent qualities were better known, it would be far more extensively planted. A good method would be to alternate it with the maple, and we suggest this plan to those who design to plant street trees during the coming spring.

LAND needs no rest except what it gets in the season of winter. True, the law of Moses provided periods of rest for land, but this was because agriculture was in a crude state of development in that age of the world. Even then, it was only rest from the hand of man that it got. A natural growth of herbage was produced, and this, by its decay, enriched the soil. Nature abhors a fallow, and will not have one unless compelled to do so by the meddlesomeness of the husbandman. It will be a great step in advance when clovering is made to take the place of fallowing. Clover is at once a crop and a manure, and strange though it may seem, while it occupies the soil the land both rests and works at one and the same time.

As the result of negotiations carried on by Mr. J. E. Fuller, of Oaklands Farm, Hamilton, Ont., the Minister of Agriculture has obtained the consent of the British authorities to the admission, under due precautions, of American cattle into Canada for breeding purposes. One or two quarantine stations are to be established at the western frontier, and there is to be careful veterinary inspection of imported animals. Mr. Fuller is interested in this matter as an importer of Jersey cattle. He has a choice herd of this breed, which has been selected with great care, of the best strains, and regardless of cost. He has recently purchased the bull “Welcome,” which took the first Guenon prize in the Island of Jersey last year. Mr. Fuller is a son of the Bishop of Niagara.