

# Success Without a Mortgage. STUDIED HIS MARKET.

THIRD PRIZE ESSAY, TEN DOLLARS.



A SUCCESSFUL FARMER.

We had lost our home in town by a mortgage, as well as everything else, with the decline of the "boom" in '93, and as the only thing at hand, I was working as a newspaper reporter at \$15 a week, with rent to pay and a family of four children growing up. When I had spent 3 yrs on a farm and had been a harvest hand in Mich and in Dak, sheared sheep, worked in a nursery and run a threshing machine. In the 3 yrs on the farm I had read the American Agriculturist and was always interested in farming.

Something had to be done and I kept my eye out for a farm. Farmers were despondent on account of the low prices of wheat and hops, as well as everything else, and many farms were being sold out at mortgage foreclosure. I finally learned of a farm of 170 a. that had been taken in on a \$3000 mortgage, which the mortgage people had rented out for \$40 the year before and was then abandoned. The owner was willing to sell it for \$750 cash. It was an old farm, taken up 30 yrs before. Half of it was bottom land lying along the river; the rest steep hill, covered originally with fir timber, but now with cull trees and second growth.

Ten acres of the bottom had been in hops, and a hop-drying house, three tumble-down barns, an old water saw-mill, a shambling house and several



A WASHINGTON FARMYARD.

smaller outbuildings added to the neglected look of the place. An old orchard of an acre was grown up with weeds and brush, and of the 50 a. of land once cultivated barely 20 was fit to plow. The rest had grown up to brush. All the cleared land was thickly dotted with big stumps, mostly cottonwood, but a few cedar.

I had \$200 cash. I made the owner an offer of \$15 per year cash in advance rent for the place for a term of 5 years, with the privilege of purchase at \$750 at any time within the term, which was accepted and we moved onto the place. It was off the main road in a rather lonesome looking place, which had something to do with the cheap price. Part of the old house was torn down and the remaining part cleaned and straightened up and whitewashed. One of the barns was put in order and the others as well as the old mill torn down to make sheds and fences. The old orchard trees were sparingly pruned and sprayed and a little of the growth of brush in the field cut.

A team of horses, harness, wagon and some other tools, as well as two cows and heifers, some pigs, chickens and ducks were easily procured from farmers who were ready enough to give credit. A new plow was bought and in the spring all the available land was plowed without stopping to dig out stumps or clear out brush, except the small patches and edges that had already been cut. The idea was to raise as much crop as possible for the amount

of work. We were too far from market because of the bad road, to make it profitable to raise such things as required frequent trips to town. Wheat would not pay to raise in competition with the great wheat farms where it can be grown and put on the cars for 20c p bu, corn will not grow in this country, where the climate is not warm enough for it, but pork, poultry, eggs, butter, potatoes, onions, winter apples and other fruits were apparently the best crops.

The first year we raised 1000 bu potatoes on a little over 3 a, which sold at \$15 p ton; 400 bu onions on 1 a sold for \$350; also sold some eggs, a few carrots, and eight pigs for \$100. I came out in the fall with a good supply of vegetables and meat for winter, a nice start in pigs for the next year, and a pointer that there was money in turkeys and ducks. Incidentally we found out, at a cost of half our poultry, that three or four dogs and a flock of guinea fowl would go a long way toward keeping away the wild cats, foxes, skunks and other poultry pests.

By the next spring a good many of the easiest stumps were rolled out and a few blasted with dynamite. The edge was cut from brush patches, squaring out plowed pieces. The old land was weedy, but no weeds were allowed to grow. The manure was put on the root crop land, where there was the most work. Good crops of sugar beets were raised, which were fed to horses, cattle, pigs and poultry. Oats were raised for hay. I tried the experiment of sowing barley and Canada field peas together and found it a great success. As soon as the crop would do to cut we began to mow it with a scythe and feed to the pigs, cutting and drying the last of the crop and stacking it the same as hay, but saving out plenty for seed. There are no pea weevils in this country and peas make splendid feed for pigs.

The second year we sold 300 turkeys for \$200 and also made a good profit on the ducks, which were sold while three-fourths grown, and the poultry and eggs paid for all the groceries. It was hardly profitable to make butter. For a few cows it did not pay to buy a cream separator, and dairy butter, no matter how good, would not bring the price of creamery butter. Other work paid better than making butter the old way.

Near the city were a score of dairies which supplied the city with milk. Their cows were good and they used generally thoroughbred bulls; they raised few of the calves. It paid better to sell their milk and buy new cows than to raise the calves. The first year I bought six well bred heifer calves and more the next year and later sold them back to the dairymen at a good profit. The third year 5 a was again planted in hops. This year the crop went a ton to the acre and cost about \$100 p a to grow and harvest, not taking into account the value of the land. The hops we hope to sell for 12c or better. Turkeys, pigs, cows, eggs and poultry paid best.

The farm is paid for, the brush cleared up, the stumps much less, the weeds kept well out of sight, plenty of fruit trees and small fruits of all kinds set out and growing, and we don't have to worry about where the next month's living is to come from. Neither have we a mortgage hanging over our farm and home.—[Jerry Mecker, Pierce Co, Wash.

## THE APIARY IN APRIL.

March and April are the most critical months of the whole year with bees and the heaviest losses occur in these months. Many colonies go into winter quarters with scant provisions, which, being consumed about this time, leave such colonies to starve to death. Bees in most localities begin to breed rapidly at this time and to draw heavily on their stores. As a rule, bees will consume more honey now than they do in the 3 mos preceding, hence the importance of looking after them now and furnishing food to all that need it. In localities where the weather is yet quite cold, candy is the best food to give them, but where it is warm enough for them to fly every few days, syrup may be fed them with safety.

To obtain the best results, we should not be content with feeding merely to save the bees, but should now begin stimulating feeding, as this doubles the strength of colonies, and by that means doubles the size of the honey crop. It

requires about one gill of syrup per day to each colony to accomplish this, and it will be found to be a good investment.

We can also furnish the bees a substitute for pollen in early spring, and especially during this month, when most needed. Any kind of grain, ground fine, will answer. I prefer oats mixed with rye or wheat. Set it out in the apiary in boxes; shallow boxes are the best. First take some syrup and get the bees to working on that, then set the syrup in the meal, or spill some of it in the meal, and in this way it is no trouble to get them started. It is a very interesting sight to see them working on the meal, this alone will pay for all the trouble.

At this season dysentery gets in its greatest destruction, and often results in the loss of whole apiaries. This disease is brought about by long confinement in cold weather in unprotected hives; in some cases perhaps an inferior quality of honey will bring it on. The best and about the only cure for dysentery is fine weather. A few fine days, which will admit of the bees flying freely, will ordinarily effect a cure, and without this but little can be done. Blocks of candy should be given all affected colonies. This is a healthful diet for them, and they will leave their own stores to feed upon it. A thorough drying out of the hives, chaff cushions and packing of whatever nature, is very beneficial if the weather will admit of it. Bees cannot successfully fly when there is much snow on the ground, and it is better to shade the hives at such a time, so as to induce the bees to stay in except on days that are warm enough for them to fly, when they should have the full benefit of the sun.—[A. H. Duff.

**Pure Food Laws**—A special committee of the U S senate has been taking evidence as to the nature of adulteration in food products. Testimony shows there are practically no manufactured or compounded food products on the market not habitually adulterated. While some adulterations are deleterious to health, all are sold at prices far above their real value. Manufacturers claim adulteration is so general they

must either adulterate or go out of business. All manufacturers profess to favor a federal pure food law. As a remedy the committee distinguish between adulterations injurious and non-injurious to health. The former may be regulated by state statutes and the enforcement of an interstate commerce law; the latter by trade regulations such as the imposition of a revenue tax, as is now done on oleo, filled cheese and adulterated flour. For this purpose the committee favors the enactment of the Brosius pure food law, its operation to be under the federal dept of agri.

**Painting Old Furniture**—Put a small quantity venetian red or Spanish brown in kerosene oil, mix and apply very thin. Three or four coats should be applied. Then varnish when thoroughly dry. For outside work, use linseed oil, as kerosene will not be durable when exposed to the atmosphere.—[W. A. Sharp, Greenbrier Co, W Va.

**If Cabbage Growers** would use paris green promptly on young cabbages, killing all worms while young, there would be few butterflies left to lay eggs for later broods, 1 lb paris green to 100 lbs lime or plaster, thoroughly mixed, will kill all worms and not be dangerous even on cabbage.—[F. H. Burnette, La.

**CHICKEN QUERIES**—J. T.: The chickens with lumps on eyes, no appetite, etc., have roup. Bathe the eye and head with Arabian balsam and give one quinine pill to each chicken daily.—C. J. C.: The Downy fowl is not a practical breed. The Golden Wyandots are considered one of the best breeds for all purposes, but no better than the Plymouth Rock or R I Red.—G. B.: Chickens have fever, closed eyes, bad breath, thin, yellowish droppings: a bad case of roup. Give tincture of acetate in drinking water, 10 drops to 1 qt water. Use Arabian balsam or other good ointment. Separate sick birds and keep in dry, sunny place.—A. V.: We do not advise using oil stoves in the hen-house. There is some danger of fire by dust collecting on the burner. Better cover the house with warm roofing.—Mrs S W.: The water in which old potatoes have been boiled has sometimes proved harmful to poultry.—N. Y. Subscriber: Ipecac is the chief remedy for scouring. Sometimes a little rice will cure.

**GET the opinion of the man behind the brush.** Ask the experienced, practical painter, the man who served an apprenticeship and has thoroughly mastered his trade, what is the best and most durable paint. He will tell you pure "old Dutch process" White Lead.

The brands in margin are genuine and may be relied upon.

**FREE** For colors use National Lead Company's Pure White Lead tinting Colors. Any shade desired is readily obtained. Pamphlet giving full information and showing samples of Colors, also pamphlet entitled "Uncle Sam's Experience With Paints" forwarded upon application.



National Lead Co., 100 William Street, New York.

### HARTMAN STEEL ROD PICKET FENCE

It is completely all fence requires as to beauty, utility and durability. It is designed for lawn, park, cemetery, school grounds, etc. Looks best and is best when built with our steel pickets. Illustrated catalog free. HARTMAN MFG CO. BOX 11, ELLWOOD CITY, PA. Or Room C2, 309 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY.

### M. M. S. POULTRY FENCE

Half cost of Netting. Requires few posts, no rails. Best Hog, Farrow, Yard, Cemetery Fences. Freight paid. KANSAS STEEL & WIRE WORKS, KANSAS CITY, MO.

### ECONOMY IS THE KEY TO WEALTH.

See how you save money by buying your woven wire fence from us.

**WE SELL DIRECT TO THE FARMER At Wholesale Prices.**

We use only the best quality of steel wire, all galvanized, and we sell it at a low price. It is all guaranteed. Don't miss it. Write to-day for circulars and prices.

**ADVANCE FENCE CO., 11704 St., Pocatello, ID.**