

BUSINESS NOTICE

The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE" is published at Chatham, N.B., every Tuesday morning in time for dispatch by the earliest mail of that day.

MIRAMICHI ADVANCE

Vol. 25. No. 39. CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK, AUGUST 9, 1900. D. G. SMITH, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

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Agricultural

IMPROVING RUN-DOWN FARMS.

The number of run-down farms is increasing in this country at a rapid rate, and the West will soon have its share of these farms along with the East.

The cause of this is that there are so many engaged in farming who do not understand the primary principles of good farming that the land deteriorates without attracting their attention.

This deterioration goes on slowly and gradually, and year by year the soil produces a smaller crop after matters become considerably demoralized somebody wakes up to the fact that the land is exhausted and run down, and the farm gets a name that practically makes it unsalable.

Good money that was originally put in the land as an investment is thus lost. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are lost in this country through this deterioration of soil because of ignorance or neglect on the part of so-called farmers.

In the same way, a similar depreciation of other business property goes on in towns and villages through the lack of good management.

The farmers are not alone in having among their number poor members who fail to hold their own and keep their property from degenerating or its value falling to a negligible amount.

A good farm needs as much systematic attention as any business or city property. In order to keep up its rental or paying value the soil must not be allowed to degenerate or its buildings and other appurtenances to go to pieces.

A good farmer will not allow this. The fertility of his soil is never sacrificed for some immediate gain unless, it is restored right away again by some return.

Continual cropping without adding anything in return is never practised. But the most difficult thing in farming is to take hold of a run-down farm and restore it to its former standard of fertility.

This is a discouraging work and often drives the best of farmers to despair. It is like taking hold of a run-down business in a city and trying to build it up.

Business men say that it is easier to start an entirely new business than to attempt to put new life into one that has been run into the ground.

So it is much more satisfactory to take a farm that is in a run-down condition and than to purchase a run-down one at half price and strive to improve it.

But the latter can be done, and there are cases where it is necessary for a farmer to do this. To do this he must make up his mind to make haste slowly, and to make every step that takes a progressive one.

Grass mowing is the best of crops of the land, and green and hayward mow are must be continually added every year in excess of the amount taken from the soil.

By a proper crop rotation, plenty of manure, and the use of fertilizer to the soil, the farm can in the course of years be returned to its first fertile condition.

A man who can do this, however, is a farmer who is capable of making anything out of a farm succeed. The long course of discipline he must go through will also prove of help to him, because he will learn more about the nature of farming than the man who starts with a rich soil.

VALUE OF GOOD CITIES.

An honest and industrious man who moves into a farming neighborhood makes a valuable one.

One who is idle, dissolute and vicious depreciates not only farm property, but all property wherever he goes.

The men who talk about population making a country more valuable only look at half the truth. It all depends on what kind of population is referred to.

A colony of lepers or those having any contagious disease will depreciate the value of land whenever they go. If it were not so the congested quarters of all cities would be the highest priced.

It is rather a pity that so much money is spent on buildings and improvements that land is the dearest. Neatness to commercial centres used to be thought all important.

Now the same benefit is derived from the use of telegraphs and telephones and by steam and electric cars, which build up the suburbs at the expense of what used to be the old-fashioned town.

These same transportation and message facilities are bringing city and country in closer accord than ever before.

The time is, we believe, soon coming when a great proportion of business men in all our large cities will spend a large part of their summer vacation in the country, not merely boarding, as many of them do now, but spending their whole summer or year on places which they own.

When this occurs there will be less isolation in farm life. It will be so closely in touch with some nearby city that the newspaper and most other city advantages will be accessible in the country as they now are in the city.

When this time comes it must make farm lands much more valuable than they are now, and the majority of those who work them will be satisfied with fewer acres and the intensification of their culture which can then be given them.

Man's first home on this planet according to all tradition, is a garden of delights in our Bible is called the Garden of Eden after an experience of most varied sort, lasting many thousand years, man is again learning that to be a gardener and in the garden of Eden is his happiest and safest position.

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CHINESE SOLDIERS

They Appear to Be a Very Poor Lot - Sir John Pope Hennessy - Official Correspondent.

The town of Taku, which has just been captured by the allied civilized nations, is a military settlement rather than a city. It is situated at the mouth of the Peiho, the chief river in the province of Chi-Li.

Even before the first war of China with England it was fortified in the antiquated style so dear to the Chinese heart. The old fort is still in existence, and is wondered at and laughed over by the few who visit the place.

The walls are made of brick and earth and are reinforced by mud banks made from the oozy soil of the neighborhood.

Originally it was armed with smooth-bore, muzzle-loading thirty-two and forty pounders. It was a strong hold according to the standards of the last century, but under modern conditions practically worthless.

During the war between France and China in 1885 the old fort was greatly strengthened by the addition of a battery of Krupp and Armstrong guns.

It was the intention of the Chinese commander-in-chief to use Armstrongs exclusively but the British agent refused to pay any commission to the Chinese officials or to give receipts for amounts larger than those he received.

These were therefore broken off with him, and the remainder of the armament supplied through Chinese intermediaries, who furnished Krupp guns at a price satisfactory to themselves and the purchasers.

The corruption which marked this official business was illustrated soon after the war with Japan in 1895.

It was then discovered that the stock between China and Japan, which were Chinese cartridges in stock turned out to be nearly melted, silvered and japanned, so as to be almost indistinguishable from the real article.

It is said by old residents of Tien Tsin that at least two of what seemed to be the largest-sized Krupp guns were made of wood, painted, and sent to Japan as to be perfect.

The native soldiers at Taku are no better than the raw recruits of other ports. At one time when Hung Chang was in power in Chi-Li they were drilled, and were thoroughly familiar with modern weapons.

But during the war with Japan his famous array corps was broken up and when he was displaced and degraded the efficient organization which he had created at Tien Tsin and Taku was utterly demolished.

For the last five years the Taku garrison has consisted of poorly dressed, poorly fed, and poorly drilled raw recruits, with their pay generally six months in arrears, and with no medical attendance excepting that which they could secure from a medical missionary.

Many of them have never fired a rifle nor handled a cartridge. The present officers are on a par with the men.

Under the conservative administration of the emperor downer, all the foreigner drillmasters have been discharged from the imperial service, and their places filled with graduates of the Manchurian school, its system and graduates.

It is hardly necessary to say that they were not so pitiable. Their chief textbook upon military science is a literary classic more than one thousand years old. It abounds in such extraordinary recommendations as these:

"A wise general plays sweet music before him in order to bring his enemies into a deep sleep."

"A good commander should insist upon his men practicing with the bow to shoot backwards as they ride on their horses, and should at times lead in the exercise himself."

"No general should go to war without taking with him an extra red umbrella and an extra umbrella-bearer."

These graduates are supposed to have mastered horsemanship, bow and arrow, the spear, the sword, and martial music, these being even to-day the chief features of the Manchurian curriculum.

TEMPTED WITH THE CROWN.

But Li Hung Chang emphatically refused to accept the crown of the Emperor.

Li Hung Chang, the Celestial who has long more up and down during his long career in the Flowery Kingdom than any other citizen of that country, might have been the ruler of China had he seen fit to act in consonance with the people who desired his elevation to the throne in order to bring the country out of chaos.

Li has been guilty of acts not strictly honest, according to the tenets of other countries, yet he has always come to the front in time of trouble, and his people repose confidence in his great ability as a statesman.

The latest proof of the hold he has on his constituency is his summons to act as mediator between the Dowager Empress of China and the foreign powers.

This circumstance gives an opportunity to place on record an important matter that occurred during the Governmentship of the late Sir John Pope Hennessy at Hong-kong, in which certain prominent Chinese officials were mixed up.

At the time referred to Russia had been more than usually aggressive on the Chinese Siberian frontier, and the Chinese officials called into the conference the late General "Chinese" Gordon.

Gordon was on his way to Tien-Tsin and Peking, and stopped at Hong-kong as he had conceived the idea of placing his old friend and fellow-

campaigner, Li Hung Chang, at the head of Chinese affairs by making him the Emperor, he sought Li to sound him on the subject in order to see just how far he could trust him to second the scheme.

Gordon imparted his views to Sir John Pope Hennessy, who, of course could not, in accordance with the importance of his position take an active part in the disturbance of a country with whom his own was at peace, but Hennessy allowed his private secretary, with the aid of a prominent Chinaman in the Government service, to become the medium of communication between Gordon and the resident Chinese colonists.

One Sunday evening a conference between the "conspirators" was held at Hong-kong, participated in by many representative Chinamen, and to this assemblage "Chinese" Gordon expanded his views in relation to the desirability of upsetting the reigning dynasty and placing Li Hung Chang upon the throne.

The interpreter upon the momentous occasion was an official, "loaned" to Gordon for the time by Sir Hennessy. The project was viewed with doubt by many of the conservative Chinamen present, but the majority were

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Worry Your Friends with This - What is it that is round and sound, and just a pound, and yet does not weigh an ounce? A sovereign.

During the summer the system demands cold and refreshing drinks, and the housewife who appreciates this and regularly supplies a variety of good ones, does much to preserve, or restore, the health of the family, as well as to increase their immediate comfort.

If one has an ice-chest, refrigerator, and plenty of ice, only forethought is needed to keep a constant supply of cold water. Lacking these, water or any other beverage, can be kept refreshingly cold by wrapping the pitcher or other vessel containing it in several thicknesses of newspaper, placing on the floor of the coldest part of the cellar and covering closely with a heavy woolen blanket or carpet.

Cold tea and coffee can be served either plain or flavored. Lemon is the most agreeable and popular flavor, but one soon acquires a liking for a light one of ginger, and when drunk at intervals as one works, the latter is more desirable, because it tones up the stomach and goes far to counteract the coldness of the beverage.

Use green ginger root, and slice a little into the pot when ready to make.

A cereal coffee is a better warm-weather drink than the genuine article, for, although rich, and finely flavored, it is less stimulating than the latter, and also lighter and more easily digested. Treat it the same manner as coffee, only boiling slowly for fifteen minutes. Cool as above directed.

Cocoa has everything to recommend it, and is deserving of more recognition than it receives. Cocoa shells - the thin outer covering of the beans, they come in one-pound packages - are milder than cocoa, and also less expensive. Either makes a refreshing warm-weather drink. Use plain or flavored with vanilla or cinnamon.

Chocolate Syrup is the basis of a delightful beverage. Put six tablespoonfuls of grated chocolate over the fire in two cupfuls of boiling water; simmer slowly, stirring occasionally until dissolved; add four cupfuls of granulated sugar, stir until dissolved, remove the spoon, simmer for seven minutes longer, strain, add two tablespoonfuls of vanilla extract, and seal in glass fruit jar filled with overflavoring. When ready to serve, allow one and a half gills of ice-cold milk and two tablespoonfuls of syrup for every glassful, put them in a cold glass fruit jar, shake well for three minutes, pour into chilled tumblers, and put a tablespoonful of whipped cream in each.

Strawberry, raspberry, and other fruit syrups and shrubs are delightfully attractive and refreshing, when simply served in ice-cold water, the proportion varying from two to four tablespoonfuls of the syrup to two cupfuls of water; they also make a pleasing change from plain lemonade, and are a decided addition to oatmeal, flaxseed tea, toast-water, and various other drinks for the invalid.

No other easily made summer drinks are so wholesome and nourishing, and at the same time inexpensive, as the old stand-by, oatmeal water and ginger-ale, and by giving the former a flavor of lemon, or any one of the various fruit syrups, and making ginger-ale of ginger, lemon juice and simple syrup, instead of ginger, vinegar and molasses, as formerly, both are decidedly improved.

Ginger Pop is not a particularly pleasing name, but when well made is indeed invigorating on a hot sultry day in midsummer. Add two cupfuls of granulated sugar to four quart of tepid water and stir until dissolved. Put one ounce of finely sliced ginger root and the grated yellow rind of one lemon and one orange - measure large lemon over the fire in a cupful of water, and simmer for fifteen minutes; squeeze the juice from the lemons, remove the pulp from the rinds, strain, add all to the boiling liquid - let stand five minutes, strain, add two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, and pour into the sweetened water. When lukewarm, pour into a stone jar, add half a cupful of soft yeast, set in a warm place for 24 hours, then bottle and wire down the cork; lay bottles on the side in a cool place and in 24 hours longer they will "pop."

SUN SPOTS AND WEATHER.

Further examination of the statements concerning the sun spot observed by Abbe Marex, in Paris, served by Abbe Marex, in Paris, on effect on the mundane weather.

In size it is only 25,000 miles in diameter - only four times the mere earth in magnitude - and is by no means unusual. The discoverer argues from it that more sun spots will follow, which will cause exceptionally hot weather. That we shall have hot weather in July and August is quite probable. If those hot days come, of course the sun spot theorists will attribute them to the spots. If the summer should turn out unusually cool some of them will assign the same cause; and if there should be rapid changes there would be the same attempt to trace the relation of these changes to the sun-spots. This matter of fact, experience has failed to show that the sun spots produce any particular kind of weather.

CUBA'S SUGAR.

Cuba is the greatest sugar producing country in the world, and its normal crop is about 1,000,000 tons.

JUST WHAT SHE MEANT.

I don't think he's a man of much discernment, said the girl in blue. Why, he proposed to me only last evening, returned the girl in pink.

Yes! said he, wasn't a man of much discernment, repeated the girl in blue.

Worry Your Friends with This - What is it that is round and sound, and just a pound, and yet does not weigh an ounce? A sovereign.

POCKET-BOOK TO MATCH GOWN.

No woman can have too many pocket-books, as the fad of this summer, is to have everything to match about costume, renders it desirable to have a purse to match every gown. Choose some pretty, delicate tint in the leather of the prevailing pastel shades, as her gowns will follow the vogue in color.