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The Agriculturist.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, AND NEWS.

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

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ANDREW ARCHER, Editor.

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Training Colts.

Very many colts are spoiled by the treatment they receive, and from being confined too early to hard work. The following are very sensible hints as to proper training:

The younger the education of any animal commences the easier will its training be, and its habits more certainly fixed. A horse learns the greater part of his good or evil habits before he is three years old; for this reason, he should be well broken before he arrives at that age. At the age of one month put on a leather or web halter, without the hitching strap and let it remain on, and you can have control over him when you wish to handle him. To lead or tie him, have a leather strap with a buckle or clasp on one end, to fasten in the collar ring. A rope should never be tied around the neck. After becoming somewhat accustomed to the halter and being led, etc, tie him beside the dam at feeding time, observing him to prevent him pulling back at the halter. By kind firm treatment, you can accomplish more than by abuse of any kind to either dam or colt.

In the future training of the colt to fit him for usefulness, the same authority above quoted says: "By frequently putting on the harness or saddle and bridle, and letting them remain for half an hour the colt gets accustomed to them. It is better to train him to use without blinders on the bridle, and without check-rein. At the age of three the colt may be trained to light work for a few hours a day, though it is better to wait a few months longer. The subsequent training depends upon the use the horse is intended for; many colts are spoiled in breaking, that is they are not half subdued, hence they come up unsafe for the family and should be placed in the army, or some place where they cannot play off their pranks on the unsuspecting farmer or his family." Two of the most common mistakes of our system are wrong treatment and too early confinement to hard work.

Keeping Potatoes.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman, who has had fifteen years experience, writes on the way to keep potatoes as follows:-- All farmers I have known have granaries or corn cribs with lath floor and sides, just the thing to put fresh dug potatoes into. All kinds of fruits, grain and vegetables give off a certain amount of moisture after gathering, and if they are permitted to lie in heaps on the floor in cellar or anywhere out of a circulation of air, will keep wet, which tends to produce decay. My practice is to dig potatoes when the ground is dry; pick them up as dug; keep them covered by a blanket from the sun while in wagon and place them on the lath in my corn bin, about 18 inches thick, and leave them there until fear of freezing when they are placed in bins in the cellar. The air coming up from the earth keeps them perfectly dry. One fall it was late when I dug them and I thought it was so near the time to put them in the cellar I would take them there directly. In a few days I found they were decaying; I took them out, and put them in the corn crib and they dried off and did not rot afterwards.

Harvest in Scotland.

An idea of the effect of the cold, wet, backward weather in Scotland, may be gathered from the following paragraph under heading of "Weather and Rural Affairs," in the North British Agriculturist.

In ordinary years we have substituted the word "harvest" for "rural affairs" in the above heading by the third week of August. This year, alas! no such alteration can appropriately be made before the last week of September or first of October. In other words, the crops are between five and six weeks later than usual.

The best way to plow head-lands

is to leave strips of untouched lands to the sides as well as that the ends of the field, all of equal width, and then finish the whole by going round with one continuous furrow until it is completed close to the fence, thus avoiding the treading down of newly plowed land.

California farmers are cultivating trees for the sole purpose of raising and fattening hogs. This fruit contains large quantities of saccharine matter, hence very fattening. The tree once well started, requires little attention, bears several crops a year and is very prolific.

Agriculture.

First Biennial Report of the Board of Agriculture-Kansas.

We have received a copy of the above named report, which makes quite a handsome volume of over 600 pages. It is beautifully printed, and contains finely executed, colored maps of the State, and the separate counties of Kansas, also a map showing the superficial strata of Kansas, Pliocene, Cretaceous, Upper Carboniferous, and Coal Measure. It contains an interesting account of "Fish Culture," a long treatise on the geology of Kansas; a history of each county of the State, giving population, face of the country, course of its rivers, railway connections, agricultural statistics, average in crops and products, manufactures, number of schools and churches and many other particulars. It is one of these wonderful issues of statistical labor, containing reliable, but the driest of information, which legislators, for the benefit of the printers and the people, are continually putting forth, but which are hardly ever read.

Sowing Grass-Seed in the Fall.

I believe that it would pay New England farmers to sow a great deal more of their grass seed in the fall. Experience and observation have taught me that in many cases this is the most economical method of getting the land into grass. A small quantity of manure judiciously applied seems to go a great ways with the grass crop. Very naturally, seeding alone proves much more efficient than seeding after plowing. Returns are made quickly. The mowing lots can be kept constantly in grass. Under the common system of raising corn and then oats or rye, before the grass is got in there can be no permanent mowing lots. But by means of fall seeding, grass can be grown year after year, good crops can be secured, and the land remain unimpaired. The quality, as well as the quantity of the hay crop can easily be kept up to a high standard. If the fields are plowed and seeded again, just as soon as the slightest diminution in quantity or deterioration in quality is perceived a very high rate of production can be uniformly maintained at a small expense.

In order to insure success it is very important to do the work quite early in the season. I think that more failures result from late sowing than from all other causes combined. Sometimes late sowing seems to do very well but it cannot be depended upon. If the season is favorable there may be no trouble with the seeding performed as late as the middle of September, but in a "bad" or even an ordinary year, there will be a great deal of risk in sowing the seed so late. The grass plant is very vigorous and will endure a great deal of neglect, or even of opposition, when it is fully grown but in its early stages of development it is quite weak and is very liable to be destroyed by adverse influences.

It is not asserted that early sowing is the only thing required to insure success in seeding land with grass. No one thing alone can make success certain. The soil must be prepared to receive the seed and good seed must be freely used. But these precautions alone will not avail. It will be highly beneficial to apply a light coating of fine manure, or a sprinkling of some good commercial fertilizer. But even this will not atone for neglect to sow the seed early. Last year the writer helped seed two pieces of good upland upon the farm of a neighbor. One of them was attended to in good season while the other was not seeded until late in September. The first seeding was very successful. The last was a total failure. From the first piece a good crop of hay has been taken. The other piece was plowed during the summer and sown with Hungarian. There is every reason to suppose that if both pieces had been seeded early both would have produced good crops of grass this year. This is only a single case but many of a similar nature, and teaching the same lessons, might be added. Theory and practice both go to prove that while late sowing of grass seed in the fall is very uncertain in its results; early seeding, if properly performed, is very sure to be successful.--Car. Drigg Ward.

The shipment of American cattle through Canada to England is objected to by the British Government, and the present embargo made by Canadian Order in Council will be extended beyond 6th September.

Remedy for Engorgement with Meas.

Having lost stock (cattle) through their having obtained access to the meat bins, and having never received satisfactory answers to my inquiries through agricultural journals as to the proper method to be pursued in their treatment, I give you an account of the successful treatment of my last two cases. When feeding my stock one of my cows slipped into the open doors, and into a back entry, where stood the meat chest. She was not discovered until she had fully gorged herself. When found she was put into a stable and given six drops of acetic, first tincture, in a little water, and then was immediately given half a teaspoonful of powdered mandrake root, dry, on the tongue. By night she was voiding meat freely, and was let out. Two days afterward I gave her about half a bucket of water. On the second day she was confined in the stable, and was given sufficient water to satisfy her at the close of the third day, though she required very little--about a bucket and a half, I believe.

The other case was one in which a cow obtained access to threshed wheat during all one day. I knew nothing of it until the next morning. I then gave her ten drops of acetic and half a teaspoonful of powdered mandrake root on the tongue. She began voiding wheat that night, and continued for four days, though of course less appeared during the latter part of the time. I gave her a second dose of acetic on the evening of the first day, and two doses the second day. I also gave her about a quarter of a teaspoonful of the root, the mornings of the second and third days, though I cannot say it was necessary. On the second day, about noon, I gave her about half a bucket of water, and the same quantity once each day, as long as she was kept in the stable. I have heard of cattle being deprived of water for a week, under like circumstances, but where they seem to be doing all right I like to give them a little. In neither of the cases reported was there any permanent shrinkage of the flow of milk, though they give very little milk getting no feed and little water. I hope any one so unfortunate as to be obliged to have recourse to some such measures will give the above a trial and report the results. Because six or ten drops of acetic do good, do not give twenty five or thirty, thinking that quantity will do more good. Any one disposed to give such doses can satisfy himself they are not required by dropping five drops into half a glass of water, and taking a spoonful of the solution. --Country Gentleman.

Bee Raising in California.

This is a famous country for bees and the making of honey, and at many a breakfast table in distant Europe to-day, the wattle is spread with sweets that have been filched from the hearts of a thousand California flowers. In the month of almost every season there is a bee-keeper or apary, whose owner grows indolent and prosperous from the labors of his industrious subjects. Here there are no long winters with death of flowers, through which the patient workers must be nursed and fed in order that they may live until the opening of the next field season.

These bee-ranches are models of neatness and domestic comfort, and the profession of bee-keeping is rapidly becoming popular among persons of little physical strength or small financial capital, or both; such as maiden ladies, broken-down ministers, bachelor students, and those dilettante farmers who fancy that the royal road to bucolic happiness lies through the flowery beds of a bee-pasture. Their expenses are as light as those of a hermit in his cave, and what stores of honey are laid up are so much clear gain, as the bees board themselves while they work, and wax uncensuring in preparation for the winter which never comes. When the hive is full, the cakes of comb are removed, the liquid is strained from the cells, and the empty cups are replaced, to be filled again and again. This economical process prevents a waste of labor and time in the gathering of wax and the building of new bins in the storehouse.

Walking out in the morning in the green brushwood of the cedars you hear a loud and continuous buzzing of wings, and, although there may not be a flower in sight, it is as ceaseless and strong as in a buckwheat patch or clover field at home. This humming of bees is nature's tenor voice, as the roaring of water is her bass. There is a cure for homesickness in the bees' monotone, even though the authors thereof be perfectly wild, as, indeed, many of these are. In such a country you cannot feel utterly lonely and lost.--Sunday Afternoon.

Barley as a Late Sowing Crop.

Barley, for a few years past, has been sown in New England for a crop to feed late in the season after the frost kills the fodder corn and millet. The idea of extending the season of feeding green food into October, and November seeming a very reasonable one to the editor of the New England Farmer, he has been, during the past two years, experimenting with barley in a limited way with quite promising results. He says:-- "Our first crop, two years ago, was sown so late that it was in good condition for feeding green after the ground began to freeze nights, the weather being so uniformly good that the barley could remain in the fields--small crops for several days without heating or taking hurt in any way, and made excellent fodder to supplement the dried up grasses of the pasture."

Last year, our latest sowing was made about the twentieth of July, and owing to the favorable growing weather of August the crop grew rapidly and was nearly ripe enough for seed when cut a full month before the ground froze up. This year, we designed sowing it more extensively, and intended to have it in succession for feeding, from the middle of September to the last of October or middle of November, but the extreme dry weather which has prevailed ever since the hay crop was secured has made it impossible to get barley into a good healthy growing condition. We have at different times during July and August put in four sowings where early crops were removed, but up to the 17th of August there was hardly moisture enough in the soil to sprout barley seed on any ordinary upland fields, and where the seed did sprout, the young shoots have fallen down in a few days and died for want of water enough to keep them alive.

On two fields, millet was sown with the barley, and even this hot weather plant has rolled its leaves like corn under the burning sun, and utterly refused to grow. A considerable number have aimed to make the experiment this fall, of growing barley for a late sowing crop, for the first time, and we fear that their efforts will not only be unsuccessful, but that they will be so discouraged by this year's failure as to neglect making other similar experiments in the future.

With us the drought has been very severe. Corn has rotted and wilted till its lower leaves have died, and if they now hang yellow and brittle against the stalks. Grass in the pastures and mowing fields, except on low land, has not only stopped growing, but what had grown is as dead as hay. Strawberry runners have refused to throw down new roots, and weeds of all kinds have been kept greatly in check. At last, on the sixteenth of August, after days and days of signs of rain, it finally came, and now the question is, whether it is too late for growing a paying crop of barley. Last year, a neighbor sowed a field on the 16th of August and cut a very satisfactory crop, but the storm is lasting several days, and it will be past the 20th before we can get much seed into the ground. However, we shall hurry up now to the best of our ability. The land has been ploughed for two or three weeks, and harrowed over occasionally till it was as dry as ashes. The fertilizer is already on hand for spreading, so that a little labor will enable us to sow a considerable breadth in a very short time.

Care of Harness.

Of course it makes the trade good, and harness makers like to see it, but then there are really few who can afford to neglect the harness as it is often done. It goes long weeks without being washed and greased, though it is used constantly and in all kinds of weather; it is either thrown in the bottom of the wagon on carting when brought in, in the dust and dirt there collected, or hung up in the stables behind the horses where the ammoniaical gases soon destroy the texture and fibres, rendering it brittle and weak. No matter how good the harness may have been originally, it cannot stand such treatment as that very long, and soon becomes old and unsaleable. A few stitches become loose, yet they are neglected until a dollar and two spent, considerable time lost in going to the shop. In the matter of greasing, we give our plan: Choose a rainy day, (because the "boys" cannot then work outside); take the harnesses to the barn and take them apart, after which soak for a little while in warm (not hot) water, and then scrub and wash them clean, using good castile soap. Before they are dry grease well with neat's foot oil, rubbing well in, then wipe off and hang up to air. After you have greased the harness, beware of the rats, for they will cut it in pieces in a little while.--E.

The Great Mainstay of America.

The one great mainstay of America is its great, its overwhelming capacity to produce cereals, cotton, tobacco, and cattle. It is estimated that the United States had last year 30,000,000 acres under wheat, a surface nearly equal to the whole area of England. On this vast extent of land the yield last year was estimated at no less than 442,593,000 bushels, and wheat is only one of the cereals grown. Maize far exceeds it in both area and importance, and oats are likewise grown to an enormous extent. In 1877 the crop of maize was put down at 1,342,558,000 bushels, and the area covered was 59,369,113 acres. Oats yielded 406,394,000 bushels, and covered 12,826,148 acres. But the list is not exhausted by these. Barley is a cereal which year by year increases in importance, and the yield of which in 1878 was estimated at 12,222,000 bushels. In 1877 it covered an extent of 1,614,654 acres. Behind these cereals came buckwheat, with a crop of about 12,000,000 bushels 1878. Potatoes form another article of food produced in the States to an enormous extent; and, in short, the whole of the statistics of agricultural production suggest huge regions of country covered with a thriving population of cultivators. Improvements are eagerly sought in every direction of agricultural operations in order to increase profit and yield. From ploughing, sowing, and reaping to the rearing of cattle and manufacture of dairy produce, we find innovations at work and a great spirit of progress prevailing, which is a good sign for the time to come. Hitherto the great area of the States, and the abounding fertility of the land brought under cultivation, has averted the calamitous misery which haunts so many of the population of these islands; but in looking at the great prosperity which this has induced, it must not be forgotten that the stimulus given from Europe in recent years has been due to the unfortunate harvests to which we have had to submit. A cycle of good harvests in Europe would probably, at the very least, convert the American agriculturists to free trade.--English Papers.

Foals Lost after Weaning.

A correspondent of the North British Agriculturist, who has for late years lost several foals after weaning, having written for advice as to keep, and general treatment most likely to keep them thriving, received the following answer:-- Sudden changes of food are apt to prove very trying at any period of life, and are especially so in young animals. The milk contains in an easily digestible form all the elements of nutrition admirably blended, and constituting the type of a perfect dietary. The foal when weaned is often expected to pass suddenly from this digestible concentrated food to something entirely different, and often greatly inferior, both in digestibility and nutritive value. If it be late in the season, the chief food consists usually of a few cold wet roots, and a service of hay, which is dry and often distasteful to the young creature; and enough of the dry food is not eaten properly to sustain health and vigor. Even if grass clover or vetches are still obtainable, they are not, especially in late autumn, a sufficient substitute for the milk. To bridge over successfully the critical weaning time, the obvious plan is to accustom the foal for several weeks previous to its separation from the dam to eat concentrated food, such as a mixture of about equal parts of crushed oats, bran, and finely ground linseed cake. Only a few ounces of this will at first be eaten, but soon the foal will learn to pick a pound, and when weaned his allowance may be two to three pounds night and morning. The shelter as well as the feeding of the weaning foals should be looked to. If left at night in the fields, they ought to have access to a comfortable shed. Where a number of foals are weaned together, care should be taken that the stronger do not shoulder aside the weaker, and devour most of the food. One great secret in the successful rearing of all young stock is to observe the very earliest appearances of anything amiss, and endeavor promptly to combat it.

Sheep on Every Farm.

A writer on sheep husbandry in the south, says: To utilize the meadow and pasture, sheep can be more profitably used than any other stock. Sheep culture has advantages over cattle raising. It gives annual dividends in the fleeces. Indeed, the ewe gives two dividends--her fleeces and her lambs. The beef-producing animals give no dividends, and the grower must go on adding his expenses to the end of their lives, when he must find his compensation (if he can) in one gross sum. The capital required for the purchase of sheep--enough stock for a fair trial--is small. Large flocks are not required.

Sheep growing is also commended by other considerations, apparently slight, but too important to be overlooked. Wool never has to seek a purchaser. Poor or good it is eminently the cash article on the farm. The little addition from this source to the resources of the farm affords a satisfaction to which every wool-growing farmer will testify.

The effects of a Cotswold cross to the Spanish Merino, in firmness and softness of fibre, density of fleece and strength of staple, remains for many generations. I call my ewes annually, at shearing time marking all that are delicate in form or fleece, or that are becoming aged, and set them apart with the wethers for mutton, which are sold the following spring. Of bringing a better price than ordinary sheep, because they grow less and are better mutton. I sold a lot last spring, fattening principally on grass, that netted \$14 per head. They averaged 166 pounds.

The little, light-fleeced Merinos imported from Spain, between A. D. 1800 and 1813, by Col. Humphreys, Consul Jarvis and others, were transformed by Messrs. Atwood, Connecticut, Hammond, of Vermont, and others, into a type of sheep so far superior in constitution, form and weight of fleece, and all together so widely different from the original importation, as to be regarded a distinct variety. In justice to our breeders, the word Spanish was dropped and the term American Merinos applied to them.--Rural Sun.

The following record shows the marked improvement in the speed of trotting horses within the last sixty years: In 1820 the best mile time was 2:00; in 1830, 2:40; in 1840, the best record, by "Dutchman," 2:28; in 1850 "Lady Suffolk" made a mile in 2:26; in 1860 "Flora Temple" made a record of 2:19; in 1870 "Dexter" trotted a mile in 2:17; in 1876 "Goldsmith Maid" completed a mile in 2:14; in 1878 "Rara" (against time) made a mile in 2:13; on the 9th ult. "Edwin Forrest" made a mile in the unparalleled time of 2:11.











