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The Agriculturist.

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

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

"AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH."

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

VOL. 1.

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BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENTS

inserted for 6 months or 1 year on moderate terms.

The number of weeks an advertisement to be inserted should be clearly stated. When this is not done it will be continued until ordered out, and charged the full time it has been inserted.

Varieties.

Night and Morning.

I pause beside the darkening pane, With homestead heart and weary hand. To watch the fair day fade away...

And when the east, like some far shore Of promise, broadens, rosy-bright, Visions of darkness vex no more...

The grief that seemed too hard to bear, The thought which stung so sharp a pain—Fades in the rich and golden grain...

The Joys of the Future.

Let me sing of the joys of the future, The hour that brings his bliss, Though the past may be burdened with sorrow...

Oh! mourn not, though travel-stained pilgrim, If thy journey is lonely and drear, How thy frail limbs may now suffer...

Oh! drop not, then, delicate flower, That grows by the wayside of life; The sun will shine brightly to-morrow...

Let us sing of the days of the future, And dwell in the joys it will bring, Let us drink of the ecstatic waters...

He who spends all he gets is on the road to beggary. An exchange puts the following pointed conundrum: "Why is a newspaper like a tooth brush?"...

The alderman who was lately injured by the accidental discharge of his duty, is reported to be in a fair way of recovery. He says he'll never be caught that way again while in the full possession of his senses.

"Over the Hills to the Poorhouse" was the title of a new play to be produced in Battle Creek, Mich., by a travelling theatre company.

A learner clergyman in the State of Maine was accused in the following manner by an illiterate preacher who despised education: "Sir, you have been to college, I suppose?" "Yes, sir," was the reply. "I am thankful," rejoined the former, "that the Lord has opened my mouth to preach without any learning?" "A similar event," replied the clergyman, "took place in Baalam's time, but such things are of rare occurrence in the present day."

"ANNIBAL IN LONDON" - The latest novelty in London is a Tonga Islander one Mr. Mppom-ha-ha. He is nearly 50 years of age, of mild and prepossessing appearance, remarkably intelligent, and a practical Christian.

The captain who abducted him had him instructed, and so remarkably docile and gifted was he that he is now lecturing. His lectures are accounts of savage life in his native land, and are said to be highly interesting.

One great personal attraction about him is that he admits that in 1860, when he was a cannibal of cannibals, he and his family ate a New York missionary. He offered part of his earnings as lecturer as compensation for this uncanonical banquet but no relative has as yet come forward to claim the dividend.

Agriculture.

Cattle Feeding.

We see it stated in the papers that there are 200,000 cattle, and 500,000 sheep feeding in Ontario this season, intended for the English market. This is a very large number, and we think must be over-estimated...

We are not of those who believe that our winters are too long and too severe for feeding to be carried on profitably, because we have seen too many instances to the contrary to disprove it. In our visits among farmers we have seen numerous cases where, with suitable conditions, the farm animals have not only been kept growing, but yielded a constant profit...

The North British Agriculturist, of December 25th, publishes a prize essay, by a Mr. Simon Prince, of Forest Hill, near London, on the potato disease, which strikes us as presenting more ideas as to the cause of the blight, and as suggesting an original method of contracting it.

Winter Feeding.

At this season of the year there is nothing, we suppose, that so much engages the attention of the farmer as that of the care of his cattle—"winter feeding." We have more than once lately had articles on the subject. The following from the Maine Farmer, is the most practical and the best suited to this latitude that we have seen.

In our climate, with a longer period during which domestic animals feed to be confined to the barns than in almost any other State—usually averaging from six to seven months—the matter of feeding becomes one of the greatest importance and it is to be regretted that it does not also become more of a study. Winter feeding is at best artificial—the animals of the farm graze naturally, and if June pastures were perpetual they would have just the best conditions possible for their greatest comfort...

Now, winter feeding being artificial, there is much reason for the belief of many careful farmers that it is only during the grazing months that cattle make a gain and yield a profit by their increase; and often the remark is made by shrewd men that cattle gain when at pasture only to lose it all

when confined to the barns in winter. Though this may not be actually correct, yet it conforms with the experience of most farmers we presume to say that cattle are thought to be doing well when they "hold their own" through the period of winter feeding—indeed "spring poor" is a term a great many farmers know the meaning of. Now winter feeding of all the domestic animals should be such as to provide so far as possible, the nearest approach to the good pasture of early summer which it is possible to do; or in other words, a forage of the best, early cut, well cured hay, with roots to supply moisture and to keep the system in good condition, and provender as an extra force to sustain the strain upon the system consequent upon milk production, hard work, or the processes of reproduction...

At Rothamstead, England, Messrs. Laves and Gilbert collected on a rain-gauge (having the surface of 1-1000 of an acre the entire rain-fall, dews, etc., for two years. The analysis of the water showed that the amount of ammonia contained in them was equal to 7 pounds one year and 91-2 pounds the next, for an acre of land.

In the waters gathered at Insterburch during twelve months ending March, 1865, an acre of land received from the air 6-38 pounds of ammonia, while the waters collected at Ida Marienhutte, Prussia from April, 1865, to April, 1866, showed the amount of ammonia to be 12 pounds to the acre.

What these figures stand for in practical farming we will realize the better by noting the number of pounds of ammonia called for by particular crops, in the 'formulas' of Prof. Stockbridge of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. A crop of 25 bushels of buckwheat, consumes about 45 pounds of ammonia; 25 bushels of oats about 28 pounds; 2 tons of rye straw 12 pounds; 45 bushels wheat about 50 pounds; 50 bushels of Indian corn about 75 pounds. The term Natural Fertility has been defined to refer to the amount of plant food annually accumulated in the soil by decomposition, decay and chemical action constantly taking place among its earthy particles and the remains of life. But in this definition, the quota of plant food supplied from the air and brought down to the soil in snow and rain is overlooked, and it is the more important for consideration, seeing that the amount of ammonia contained in the air is different for different places (most abundant in cities), and that weather conditions determine the proportion of ammonia washed from the air.

These brief hints will show how important a matter the artificial feeding of domestic animals is, as a part of the farm economy; and how provisions for it reach backward and forward through all the operations of the year, and enter into all the plans and labors of the farmer.

What is called the potato plague I consider not a plague but a blight. We do not characterize the disease called consumption, which afflicts and carries off so many of our fellow countrymen, as a plague. To my thinking, what is called the potato disease stands in the same relation to it as consumption does to our fellow men. I am humbly of the opinion that the disease is potentially present, even in the tubers that are apparently free from it, just as we find individuals in families where consumption carries off the rest apparently free from the seeds of that insidious malady.

Snow the Poor Man's Manure.

Snow has been called the poor man's manure, and there is much reason to believe that it does contribute to the fertility of the soil. The snow-fake has a beauty of its own, when placed under the magnifying glass, but this beauty we can well forget in view of the gift of utility it contains within itself, the charm, we may say, that make it of importance in vegetable nutrition.

Again, take the following: On sifting potatoes, you will find there are what we might call three stages or generations of the tubers. Some are so loose in their tie to the stem that they remain in the soil or among the earth mould, when the 'shaw' is removed. The second generation easily shake off from the stem; but the third require to be picked off. Examine these three classes in relation to the disease. Among the first there is but little—sometimes no trace of it; in the second there is more; in the third most of all. What does this again prove? Why, that in proportion to the ripeness of the potato, it is able to resist the atmospheric action. It is thus evidently a matter of resistance, as the constitution, so to speak, is solidified, or otherwise.

given in figures, still being a free gift costing us nothing, we may think more kindly of the snowdrifts that leave blockaded roads for a half Winter—if we fully realize that they are to disappear to reappear in the disguise of a bounteous harvest. The snow-fake, the rain-drop, and all the little of nature are when rightly viewed the only truly great thing of nature, as the hour-glass does its duty through the hour, by the dropping of grains of sand, so the farmer must do his by recognizing his fortune to reside in little.

Or yet again you have another proof. In the same field the potatoes, on an average, are all at the same stage of ripeness or otherwise. But some are situated in a comparatively dry or sandy soil, the other in a wet and clayey. In the dry and sandy you find the disease, but in a very subdued state; in the wet and clayey, it is developed to its highest and most vigorous form.

Here it may be asked, what has caused this generic debility in the potato plant or root? This may be due to a variety of causes. One doubtless is that the plant or tuber is not indigenous to British soil. As Europeans love vigor and degenerate in Asiatic climes, so the potato in ours. Added to that we have the unnatural forcing of the plant with too rich manure; and also there should be taken into account the too frequent practice among farmers of cutting the seed, days and sometimes weeks before they are planted.

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When the potato plant with its tubers arrives at the stage we call ripe, before the blight takes place, the potatoes almost, or altogether, are unscathed. What is the reason of this? None other than that they are more able to resist atmospheric causes. I have observed, that with sultry, close, fiery weather in the early part of the season—say about the middle or end of July—the blight is generally very virulent. If, on the contrary, the weather is clear and fine until about the first or second week in August it is much less so.

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the same field. Some rows are occupied with plants whose shaws are comparatively green and vigorous. Others beside them present plants whose shaws have lost all growth and greenness, and lie whitened or browned in the drill. Which drills does the blight affect? Only those whose plants were green, because their constitution was less able to resist it than those of fully developed and ripened vigor.

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the poles, and also into the earth at least five feet, pronged at the top with three or five prongs. My conviction is that such lightning conductors would gradually take down the electricity rushing across the fields, and save the potatoes.

The cost of this experiment may vary according to circumstances—say from two to three pounds at first; but the poles, &c., would be available for years, as they could be transferred easily from field to field when necessary.

Wintering Sheep.

The first month of winter, more than any subsequent period, determines the success of the flock through the feeding season. The maximum quantity of food should be reached by gradual increase from a beginning, extending back into the grazing season, and maintained at the point where it is thoroughly consumed. The poor economy of under feeding has often been deprecated in these columns. Indefensible under any normal condition, it is doubly so when the cereals are as cheap as at the present time, in the agricultural sections. Corn is selling at a majority of the stations within 200 miles of Chicago at less than 25 cents per bushel. In view of this fact, the flockmaster who permits his sheep to pass through the winter in any condition short of No. 1 makes a mistake, which next spring will bring home to his appreciation with an intensity that will not allow it to be forgotten.

The propriety of feeding corn in heavy quantities in somewhat of an open question with breeders in the Eastern States. The writer recalls an instance in which so eminent an authority as Dr. Randall questioned the propriety of feeding over half a pint of corn per head daily. This sounded odd to men who had daily fed three bushels to the hundred sheep, for years in succession, with an added bushel when fattening was desired.

What led me to detect the first or incipient stages of the disease was the following circumstance:—In the first year of the potato blight I was residing with my family for two months on the banks of the Holy Loch, opposite Kilm. One morning I went up to the river fishing. On my way I observed the plot of potatoes which was behind the house, as being in a very healthy state.

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Next morning I went to the unhealthy part of the plot, and found a very bad odor arising from it. Carefully taking off the earth from one or two of the stems, I found two or three of the potatoes were to all appearances sound, two or three were partially blighted, giving out a bad odor when cut—and two or three were in a pulpy state. Following so speedily upon the state of the weather described above, led me at the time to form the opinion that the two were so related, as cause and effect.

It may here be asked what remedy I would propose for arresting the blight. It is simply this. I would have poles 30 or 40 feet in height raised at certain distances in the potato field; the distance required would need to be the result of subsequent experience. The poles would have to be sunk sufficiently deep in the soil to secure their upright position—say four feet. Then an electric conductor to run up alongside of

she is familiar by instinct, while she is often deaf to appeals from the duckling or gosling.

A sitting, clucking hen, or one with young, is apt to pick quarrels with the other fowls; and if allowing full liberty, will have frequent battles with her neighbours, to the great discomfort of her brood. In a measure, her chicks are somewhat accustomed to these pugnacious proclivities, and do not suffer so much as the young ducklings. The duck mother seldom fights, but still is master of the poultry-yard, generally speaking. She is a quiet, comfortable sort of a body, enduring her isolation from water with commendable fortitude.

As food as ducks are of their stagnant pool or stream of running water, they are quite as well without it, and thrive with only sufficient water to drink. The duck mother seldom fights, but still is master of the poultry-yard, generally speaking. She is a quiet, comfortable sort of a body, enduring her isolation from water with commendable fortitude.

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Many years ago, there was kept a brownish grey duck of the premises of the writer that was very often given to mischief, troubling the hens and driving them about the yard and away from the feed and drink. Still she was suffered to remain with her mate among the hens until she had frozen. The almost ubiquitous cockle-bur is the great drawback to this item of foraging. In its absence, the stalk field is commended to the farmer who is the owner of sheep as a source of profit and convenience.

Covered and Uncovered Manure.

Some years ago, says an experienced farmer, I had a lot of sheep wintered in a building and yard fenced in with high pallings to keep out worthless curs. In the second story of the building hay was kept for the sheep, and fed to them under the building, which was open at one end, some six or seven feet high, into the yard where troughs were kept for feeding grain.

How to Raise Ducks.

With all young poultry, the natural mother is the best calculated by nature to take charge of her own offspring, inasmuch as there are many requirements which instinct teaches them, and which are equally adapted to both mother and progeny, when both are of the same kind. A hen is not a suitable mother for young ducks. Ducklings are considered by the majority of people as hardy birds and easily reared, and so they are with their natural mother, but with a hen mother it is a different thing.

I took a cart and oxen and drew the manure which was on the outside of the building, and put it on a strip across the field intended for wheat, then drew out the same quantity in

bulk from under the building, and put it in like manner on an adjoining strip of same size and quality. All was sowed with wheat of the same kind and at the same time. The crop from those two lands was not measured, but every one who examined the crop before cutting decided there was about twice the quantity on the land manured by the covered manure.

The TILLYFOUR CATTLE AT THE LONDON CHRISTMAS MARKET.—The Agriculturist has been very highly of the Scotch cattle which appeared at the London Christmas market, and pays the great compliment to Mr. William McCumbie of Tillyfour of placing him at the top of the list as regards the quality of his stock.

Scotland was never better, or perhaps we should say Aberdeenshire—the adjoining counties—the southern counties of Scotland being the source of a corn growing character. The alleys of Mr. George Dickson and Mr. Gibblet merit special notice for the large consignment from Aberdeenshire. There is also a large number of very nice Scotch polled beasts that have been fattened out in England. Mr. Dickson's large scale of 450 lbs contains more crosses than pure polls; early maturity, weight, and quality being the obvious object of Aberdeenshire farmers in crossing with short horns.

"No doubt," a writer of some years back states, "we are a wise people in our generation, but not from all eternity. God has been wiser than we, and hens were intended to hatch and bring up their chickens and ducks to rear young ducks. Ducks are prolific egg-producers, generally making a nest on the ground, in a private place, yet not far from home. It is useless to undertake to keep ducks for profit and allow them the range of a large running stream. The water makes them wild and blots everything else out of their habits, and they frequently drop their eggs in the water, a thing which they never do when kept in the yard. The nest is made on the ground, usually under the shelter of an unused coop, or under a thick mat of bushes, or a misplaced board, that is raised sufficient from the ground to afford admittance to the duck. The nest is deep and soft on the earth, and the bird does not like to have it disturbed by its keeper. She will take good care of her eggs. She makes her nest soft with the feather from her own nest.

New Mixture for Woollen Goods.—A new effect may be produced in all kinds of woollen goods by mixing china grass with them. The object is to profit by a property possessed by the grass of not taking the same dye as the wool, consequently when the latter is dyed the vegetable fibre retains its whiteness and gloss. It is best to mix the two fibres before the spinning, say in the carding engine or the mill, and to take the china grass a little longer than the wool, to enhance its effect; the best proportion is ten to twenty per cent. of the former to ninety or eighty per cent. of the latter. The yarn thus spun is used for warp as well as for weft. The wool employed may be carded or combed wool. The cloth can be raised and milled as usual and woven in any desirable manner.

COUNTRY LADS.—Boys who are fortunate enough to be born in the country have unmistakable advantage over city lads. The country is the place of all others to be born in. The associations of youth of home of school, winter, and the farm work and play mixed together in a delightful tangle, are never repeated out, but grow deeper into the character and become dearer to the being while life passes and the revolving years hold out. It is worth more than a university education to have been born and brought up on a farm of well-to-do parents. That supplies what no learning from the books ever can. That is a resource that stands by. It is a something to feed upon. And if the boy as a man engages in business or a profession, he has a stock of health and a sound constitution to draw upon that will carry him triumphantly through when the city boys are giving way all along the road. Morally a boy physically, he has by far the best of it.

EXTRAORDINARY DAIRY COW.—Mr. E. T. Funnell's "Duchess" is an extraordinary dairy cow. A few weeks ago the whole of her milk for seven days, always milked by one man, was kept apart from that of any other cow, skimmed also, and churned separately, under special superintendance. The butter made from those seven days' produce weighed eighteen pounds but for two ounces. Besides this, 'I think her' Mr. Funnell remarks, 'the finest fesh-grower I ever saw.' Mr. Funnell further informs us that his cows when in full milk in the summer made an average of over ten pounds per cow, weighing good eighteen ounces to the pound.—Bull's Weekly Messenger.

Scaly legs in fowls are caused by a parasitic mite which burrows under the skin of the shank and feet. They may be destroyed by applying a mixture of lard and kerosene oil.



NEWS ITEMS.

Australia makes better olive oil than does Italy. The English duty on tobacco amounts to some \$45,000,000 a year. A Virginia was recently married who has 104 grandchildren.

A Prince Edward Island Mystery.

Prince Edward Island has a mystery of a nature seldom known in the States. On the 25th of October last, Edward Lyons left St. John's harbor to go to his home at the head of Swains River, and has not been seen since.

Communications.

For the "Agriculturist." Sir, - You will kindly allow me space in your valuable paper for a few remarks. In common with many others of the Reform Club, I am very much distressed with the manner in which the ladies of the Club are carrying on their work.

York County Agricultural Society.

The Annual Meeting of the York County Agricultural Society, took place on Thursday last at 10 o'clock in the afternoon in the Temperance Hall. The attendance was small.

Afghanistan and Africa.

While all eyes have been turned towards Afghanistan, little attention has been paid to the "little war" that has been going on in South Africa.

The Trial of the Directors of the City of Glasgow Bank.

The trial of the directors and managers of the City of Glasgow Bank, in the High Court of Justice, Edinburgh, which will commence on Monday the 29th, will excite universal interest.

Gen. Grant.

Gen. Grant has, for a year and a half been touring it through Europe. He has visited all, and received the freedom of many of the principal cities in Great Britain and the continent.

A Scotch Baronet, Sir Hew Pollock has been sued by his housemaid for breach of promise.

A Scotch baronet, Sir Hew Pollock has been sued by his housemaid for breach of promise. The damages were set at \$5,000, and the case was ultimately compromised for \$800 and expenses.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., JANUARY 18, 1870. The question of depression of trade in England is not, on its face, an attractive, but to the people of Canada, it ought to be, a very interesting one.

Trade and Tariff.

The question of depression of trade in England is not, on its face, an attractive, but to the people of Canada, it ought to be, a very interesting one. The depression is only temporary, but British manufacturers will find it very difficult to recover and as we generally have a surplus of goods, it is not likely to be long before our exports will be largely increased.

Waste of Colonial Timber.

A short time ago we referred to the waste of timber lands in the Dominion from excessive lumbering and destructive fires. The subject has been engaging the attention of the Imperial Government.

Canadian Carriages and Cyprus.

Great fun was made of Sir Garnet Wolseley in some of the London papers, because, as they alleged, he had after praising the salubrity of Cyprus, asked leave of absence as his health had been undermined by the climate.

The Carnival.

The Carnival in the skating rink, last night, was a lively affair. The rink was well decorated with flags and wreaths, and lighted by additional lamps and strong reflectors.

ITALIAN METHOD WITH DIPHTHERIA.

The two methods of treating diphtheria, - the Italian and the English, have been compared by a French physician, Dr. Desse, of Lyons, and he concludes, as he claims with remarkable accuracy, that the Italian method is superior to the English method.

NUMBERING THE HEART-BEATS.

NUMBERING THE HEART-BEATS. - A curious experiment has been made by a French physician, Dr. Desse, of Lyons, in numbering the heart-beats of a man during the first year of his life, and he has found that the number of heart-beats during the first year of life is 31,000,000.

THE FERRY LEASE DISPUTE.

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held on the 16th inst., to sit upon the Lower Ferry Lease case, to which S. H. Gill and A. S. Crawford and Austin Gill are parties.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' COUSIN.

The Prince of Wales' cousin, who was a severe test recently, and he is now doing well. His Royal Highness and Lord Lytton were standing near a caisson on the 10th inst., when the Prince of Wales' cousin was boiling at a white heat.

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