

# Agricultural

## SPECIALTY FARMING.

Occasionally we find an article in our exchanges advising young men to devote themselves entirely to some special branch of agriculture, or if not giving such advice directly, they imply it by narrating wonderful tales of the wealth gained by someone who has devoted himself to one particular industry, which may be a breed of fancy stock or poultry or some one fruit or vegetable.

No doubt that all of these stories are true, but there is usually a part of the story or more than one part untold. Prominence enough is not given to the peculiar adaptation of the man to the business, a faculty that makes him like it better than any other thing. They are mildly monomaniac upon it. The strawberry specialist sees no beauty in the apple tree, and notices no good flavor in its fruit. The poultry specialist may be a man afraid of a cow, and the dairy specialist does not want hens on his place.

Such a man, living but for one purpose, studying only that, must achieve success in that or in nothing. But to be successful he must learn to select a location suited to his specialty. To a certain extent he may change the character of his surroundings and his soil, but as he cannot grow trout in a sand bank, or chickens in a frog pond, so with many other specialists—an attempt to force them to succeed on unfit soils or locations cannot be much but a failure.

Of the many failures that have resulted from attempts of some one to imitate another when neither man nor location were any way similar in the original and the imitator, such accounts say nothing, any more than the lottery ticket dealers used to publish the list of unfortunates who drew blanks. If they did, the list would have been longer but less tempting than the list of prize winners.

Still another requisite is necessary to success in specialty farming. There must be a market for the product, and one must know how to reach it. There are customers for those who grow mushrooms and those who breed frogs, but in certain quarters they are not in demand, and would not be if prices were much lower. If one cannot find those who will buy it is of but little use to produce.

But back of all these matters that we have spoken of, and perhaps as a summary of the whole, the producer must have studied his business from at least three different standpoints, and we will enumerate them in the order we think they stand in importance. First, he should know or learn how to produce the best of its kind that is put upon the market. There are always some people who can appreciate the best, and they have imitators who have means to buy the best and will always select the highest priced, in the hope that they may have equally as good as their neighbors, even though they do not know in what consists the peculiar excellence that they paid so dearly for. A few customers of this class to make one's specialty the fashion will bring success in fame and money.

Having learned how to get the best there is another thing to be done. Be prepared to have enough to supply the market demand as it may or will increase. See how the business can be extended, and other customers supplied, but even this may be of less importance than the next thing, which is to retain the market against the competition of imitators who will quickly come to divide the trade, or to cut it down by offering to sell at lower prices than which they declare, if others do not, is "just as good" as any produced by those who have been longer in the business.

Having learned how to produce a good thing which the public want, in quantity sufficient for a fair demand, begin to study how the cost of production can be lessened without a decrease in quantity or deterioration in quality. Sooner or later there will commence a struggle for "the survival of the fittest," and the others may be crowded out.

There, are, however, specialists other than those we described at first. They have more than one idea in their heads. They can grow more than one variety of crop, and care for more than one species of animal. They do not need to devote a lifetime to one thing, to learn as much as others have learned before them. In these days of newspapers and book making, the wisdom of past generations, of dis-

tant competitors, of scientific investigators, is at the command of him who will read and think.

Such men can be at the same time successful dairymen, orchardists, poultry keepers, stock breeders, or what they will, if they will but study carefully each department to become familiar with the three points we have spoken of above, how to produce the best and the most of it, at the least cost. Make each thing a specialty, so far as that goes. Learn the ways by which others have succeeded, and see how far the conditions in their case may be adapted to your own, and how far your conditions must cause your methods to vary from theirs, and make a special point of succeeding in all the departments taken up. Then you will not fear competition from others, nor failure from unfavorable seasons. To use an old saying, you will not "have all your eggs in one basket."

## TREATMENT OF CIDER APPLES.

In gathering apples for cider, they are usually shaken from the trees, picked up and placed in heaps where they are allowed to remain until they have ripened or until the grower has opportunity to take them to the mill. Much bruising usually results from shaking them off and if allowed to remain too long in the orchard the cider is of very poor quality. If the highest product is desired, the apples must be sorted and all wormy and partially rotten specimens thrown out. These may be utilized in drying or in making apple butter or apple jelly.

In large orchards bruising is prevented by the use of canvas placed under the trees when the apples are being shaken down. Of course this is somewhat expensive, but where vinegar or cider is made on a large scale, it pays. The canvas is so cut and fitted as to extend 15 ft or more in all directions from the tree. The outer edge is held up 3 to 4 ft from the ground by means of stakes. When the apples fall upon this canvas, they are not bruised and at once roll toward the trunk of the tree. Thus all the apples from the tree may be shaken off at one time without any serious bruising. If the canvas is properly made, it can be used for many other purposes.

Cider apples should not be piled directly on the ground. They are liable to become moldy and musty or at any rate take on an earthy flavor which is transmitted to the cider. If they must be piled in the orchard for some time, make a bed of straw for them or a foundation of boards or rails.

## A PRINCESS' HARD LUCK.

Mrs. Smith. Yes, my daughter Lucy married a blacksmith, and they have a good home and are getting along nicely. Mary married a butcher, and is very comfortably provided for. Jennie married a farm laborer, and they are happily situated.

Mrs. Jones. And your daughter Gladys?

Mrs. Smith. Alas! she married a German Prince. I send her 5s per week and some discarded dresses, and by taking in washing she manages to support the family.

## OLDEST SOVEREIGN IN EUROPE.

The King of Denmark, who has just celebrated his eighty-second birthday, is the oldest sovereign in Europe, unless the Grand Duke of Luxembourg be taken into account. King Christian is rather more than a year older than Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who was 81 on the 24th of May. The Duke of Luxembourg was born on July 24, 1817. The queen, however, has been nearly sixty-three years on the throne, whereas the King of Denmark did not ascend the throne till 1863, the year in which his eldest daughter married the Prince of Wales. The king of the Belgians was 65 years old on April 9.

## A MILITARY COUNTRY.

In Japan every able-bodied man is a soldier, and even the children know the use of arms. Military drill is a part of the regular education in the schools throughout the empire. Schoolboys dress in a military uniform cut on the pattern of cadet uniforms in Europe and America. Their instructors are regular army officers, veterans of the war with China, and some of them of the Satsuma rebellion of 1877. This has its effect on the youthful mind, ever prone to hero worship, and trebly so in Japan.

## FOREIGNERS IN CHINA.

There were 11,607 foreigners settled in China in 1897.

# ANARCHY'S PROCLAMATION

## TRANSLATION OF THE DOCUMENT FOUND IN ROME.

Curious Reading for Anglo-Saxon People—First Attempted Uprising to Be in the United States—What the Anarchists Proposed to Do.

When the police of Rome a few years ago raided the headquarters of one of the central groups of anarchists they seized many documents, some of which were of so much importance that they never have been made public. One paper contained a proclamation which was to be published to the world on the day of general uprising.

Strange to say, although that proclamation was written in Italian, it purported to have been drawn by the American committee. Moreover, it is said that other documents taken at that time indicated that the first uprising was to be attempted in the United States. Here is a translation of the document:—

### PART I.

In every commune where the people have been victorious revolution committees will assemble. These will execute the orders issued by the revolutionary army, which will strengthen itself by arming all the workingmen and make use of its power as the conqueror of a new world.

The present system will be the more readily and easily vanquished if those in authority, be they kings, kaisers or presidents, be at once destroyed. In the meantime massacres of the enemies of the people should be organized.

All free communes will enter into an alliance, offensive and defensive, for the continuation of the struggle.

Insurrections must be excited in the districts round and about the revolted communes. The revolutionary war can only come to an end when the foe has been pursued to his last hiding place and destroyed.

In order to solve the economic question more quickly and completely, all lands and movables shall be declared the property of their respective communes.

Until the harmonious re-establishment of things the following principles to be made public at once shall have the force of law:—

Every pending debt shall be extinguished.

Articles for personal use in pawn shall be returned to the owners free of expense.

Rents shall not be paid, since all men have the right to protect their health by seeking shelter.

Committees on quarters, which will hold permanent sittings in the various districts, will issue billets to those who have no homes or whose accommodations are inadequate, which will secure them comfortable homes. After the rich have been swept away this will be an easy matter.

Until every one can be provided with employment the commune guarantees to every one the necessities of life.

The organization of good schools and kindergartens is a matter that may not be delayed. No more can universal instruction of grown persons, which becomes possible under the new system, be postponed or neglected. In the churches, where in future, of course, no priestling has any business, people will assemble to listen to the gospel of truth and of knowledge.

Every printing press will be put in operation, in order that improving books, newspapers and pamphlets may be produced by the million and distributed, especially in lands still deprived of liberty, if such there be.

All law books, criminal and police registers, records of mortgages, mercantile books and documents of every description are to be burned as soon as found.

The military and police are abolished. Those who are refractory or behave in a rascally manner are to be gotten out of this world in the quickest possible way.

### PART II.

The society consists entirely of independent communes.

The whole is held together, not under the guardianship of the State or government, but by a net of federations which are the result of free contracts of associations.

Affairs concerning all alike will be decided by the associations interested after free discussion.

The people will assemble from time to time without distinction of sex, not to make laws to tie their own hands with, but, as the cases may occur, to decide in matters of public interest, to appoint those fitted to carry out their decisions and to listen to their reports.

The external appearance of this commune is materially different from that of our towns and villages. In the cities the narrow streets and the tenement houses will be gradually destroyed. In their stead will be convenient buildings, surrounded by gardens. These will be inhabited by groups, large or small, as the case may be, the members of which will keep house together in order to increase their comfort as much as possible.

In the country a concentration will have taken place.

Several villages will unite to form an agricultural commune with municipal organization.

This concentration will be made easier by the bringing together of pieces of land formerly separated, the universal use of and improvement in agricultural instruments and the betterment of roadways and other means of communication.

Private property must be abolished. All property belongs to the commune or to unions of communes.

Every one, no matter whether able to work or not, can draw on these organizations for such articles of first necessity as he desires.

The total sum of requirements, measured by experience, is the standard of production.

As all of both sexes who are able to work have a share in the labor of production, as useless or injurious employments are done away with, and as the mechanical and chemical aids to labor are brought to a high state of perfection, a day's work is brought to a few hours. The greater portion of the day may be passed in real enjoyment.

Some must consecrate their unemployed time to the demands of their fellow citizens and take an active part in general management. Others make themselves useful in libraries, where they either perform the labor of authorship or collect the material for instructive lectures to be delivered at some future time. Others simply devote themselves to study; others, again, attend the lectures at the university, which will be free to all.

Academies for the development of painters, sculptors and musicians are to be particularly encouraged.

Theatres and concert rooms must offer free seats to all, and the performers will be rewarded by the commune. Forced marriages or marriages of convenience must cease. Men must make a natural choice of a mate. When the causes of vice and crime are removed these will disappear of themselves.

As bad dwellings, unhealthy shops, adulterated food and drink, overwork, etc., for reasons explained in the foregoing article, will have disappeared, the time will have arrived for man to really enjoy life.

Signed,  
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

## RAINS OF GOLD.

Tyranny is always weakness.—Lowell.

The voice of the soul is not to be silenced.—Adler.

A cheerful countenance betokens a good heart.—Rupert.

A brother's sufferings should ever claim a brother's pity.

Self-ease is pain; thy only rest is labor for a worthy end.—Whittier.

Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.—Ballou.

We often do more good by our sympathy than by our labor.—F. W. Farrar.

The good or evil we confer on others often recoils on ourselves.—Fielding.

We want not time, but diligence, for great performances.—Samuel Johnson.

He who is plentifully provided for within needs but little from without.—Goethe.

An abundant life does not show itself in abundant dreaming, but in abundant living.

Heaven will pay for any loss we may suffer to gain it; but nothing can pay for the loss of heaven.—Baxter.

What it is our duty to do we must do because it is right; not because anyone can demand it of us.—Whewell.

## THE POPE'S PENS.

The Pope does his private writing with a gold pen, but his Pontifical signature is always given with a white-feathered quill, which is believed to come from the wing of a dove, although persons who have seen it say it must have come from a larger bird. The same quill has been in use more than 40 years. It only serves for important signatures, and is kept in an ivory case.

## CITY OF MADMEN.

Owned By France in the Interior of Indo-China.

France owns a village in Indo-China which is believed to be the only village of madmen in the world. It is called Ban-Keune. The population consists of about 300 families, all of whom are prosperous and diligent.

Admission to Ban-Keune is rather a trying affair. To enter it one must be downright mad—or, as the natives call it, "pipop." The conception of insanity prevailing in this part of the world is not that of a disease, but of a "possession." Therefore, if an inhabitant of this region, as is frequently the case, displays hallucinations or conducts himself in a fashion not consistent with Indo-Chinese etiquette, his neighbors take it upon themselves to determine whether any malign spirit possesses him—in other words, whether he is "pipop." And this is the way it is done:

The unfortunate person, whether it be man, woman or child that has fallen under suspicion of "possession," is made the subject of a ceremony on the banks of the River Namngume, participated in by hundreds of people gathered together from all the country for miles about. The victim's hands and feet are first bound by the native priest, who is the master of ceremonies.

Absolutely helpless from this time on, the supposed maniac, in spite of his cries and struggles, is cast into the river. It is firmly believed by the natives that supernatural agencies then reveal the victim's true state. If he is genuinely "pipop" he sinks to the bottom of the river and stays there until he is rescued, revived and formally committed to the famous

## VILLAGE OF MADMEN.

On the other hand, if he is not "possessed" he rises again like an ordinary drowning person to the top of the river, where he is more easily rescued and then set free.

So generally topsy-turvy are the conditions in the Laos, that portion of Indo-China through which the Namngume River flows, that only acknowledged maniacs live in any sort of social rebellion with each other. The majority of the people live a solitary life, dwelling at the most in groups of twos and threes.

This condition of things, in so neglected and remote a country, helps to produce eccentricity, if not actual lunacy. Queer personal habits are contracted, and when two persons meet one another they are on the lookout for possible evidence of "possession" in one another, as the first to make the discovery and report it in the country around runs less risk of being experimented upon himself. Thus, to the Laos the first thing to look for in neighbor or stranger is not his clothes, or signs of wealth and position, but for evidence as to sanity or insanity in his eyes and bearing. Very often the victims die before they are rescued from the water by the experimenters, but this does not trouble the philosophic Indo-Chinese. If the victim dies they seem to consider it first-class testimony in regard to his general unfitness to live.

Ban-Keune, with its 300 families, is therefore the most densely populated spot in the country. Its inhabitants cultivate to their hearts' delight the idiosyncrasies which have served to commit them. And they not only live peaceable, but fall in love, marry and have children, who, in most cases, are even more eccentric than their parents. Nobody ever recovers or is "discharged"—they remain "pipop" to the end of their days.

## WOODEN BULLETS.

They Were Used By Spanish Soldiers in the Cuban Campaigns.

While lead and steel are the most common metals in use for the smaller projectiles employed in war, gold, silver, iron and even wood have been fired.

At the siege of Amadanagar bullets of gold and silver were fired into the enemy's camp by order of the Mogul Princess Candé. To make such bullets more effective curses were inscribed upon them. Mr. Selous, the African hunter and explorer, is said to have shot lions to the north of Buluwayo in the sixties with golden bullets. Lead was scarce, and it was not easy to get a fresh supply; but gold, mined on the spot, did just as well. During the fighting on the Kashmir frontier, the rebellious Hunzas used bullets made of garnets incased in lead, which they fired against the British soldiers. Bullets of stone were used before the end of the sixteenth century. Iron bullets were mentioned as in use in 1550. Wooden bullets were used by some of the Spanish soldiers in Cuba, while in Mashonaland the natives converted the telegraph wires into bullets.