

FARM.

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS.

The annual product of maple sugar in the United States is estimated at 40,000,000 pounds. It would be much larger if farmers prepared for sugar-making in winter, so as to be in full readiness when the season opens.

Maple sugar which never saw a maple tree—or any other, for that matter—is now made in Chicago of glucose and cane syrup and flavored with a "maple flavor" made from hickory bark. Chicago makes and sells as "pure Vermont sugar" more of this adulterated product, annually, than the entire output of Vermont.

Experiments in France confirm statements previously made that only from six to eight pounds of honey is required by bees to produce a pound of wax. The consistency of the honey probably has much to do with the production of wax.

We find in the *British Bee Journal* for April 21st, a statement of the quantity of the honey imported into the United Kingdom during the year 1886 and the source of supply. We give below the information:—

| | Cwts. |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| France | 994 |
| Portugal | 560 |
| Australasia | 332 |
| Canada | 426 |
| United States | 4569 |
| British West India Islands .. | 1354 |
| Spanish | 5272 |
| Chili | 7352 |
| Argentine Republic | 284 |
| All other Countries | 406 |

21,549

The farmers of Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana are arranging a scheme of co-operation, which, if properly carried out, will be of great benefit to them and speedily rid them of the mortgage incubus. The idea is to construct cotton, cotton-seed oil, and flour mills at different centers so as to enable them to get local markets for their produce and be sure of obtaining fair prices.

The mills are to be owned by the farmers themselves, who will act as their own commission agents and employ suitable men to manufacture their own products. The worst of such plans is that however feasible they are in theory, it is always extremely difficult to put them into practice.

A strong effort is being made in England to establish a "parcel post," by means of which fresh butter and new-laid eggs can be cheaply and quickly brought from the farm into London. Such a system, it is thought, would bring producer and consumer into closer trade relations and do away with a certain class of middlemen. Besides, it would insure fresher and better produce. Perishable goods, like butter and vegetables, lose rapidly in value when kept in the sun and exposed for sale. Those who have eaten green corn an hour after it was taken from the stalk know how superior it is to that kept for hours in the sun. It is much the same with butter and eggs. If some system could be arranged in this country whereby city consumers and country producers could be brought into closer relations, both would be benefited.

The farmers of Manitoba have long been vociferously dissatisfied with a good deal of the policy of the Dominion, especially with its railroad and tariff policy. A short time ago the Provincial Legislature passed charters for the construction of railroads to the American frontier, where they were to be connected with lines communicating with the Northern Pacific and other trunk roads in this country. By this means the people hoped to escape the exactions of the Canadian Pacific monopoly. The Dominion Government, however, has decided to disallow these charters. It considers itself bound by its promise to the Canadian Pacific Company not to permit competition. That the road's charges are exorbitant is shown by Sir Hector Langevin's admission in committee, that if dependent railroads could be built from Manitoba across the border to connect with roads in this country "The people of the Eastern Provinces would not see a carload of freight from the Northwest." The tax on the people of that fast developing section must be paid in order that the Eastern provinces may be recompensed for the millions expended in building the Canadian Pacific. This decision is sure still further to exasperate the angry farmers of Manitoba, especially in view of the impending increase of the tariff duties which the agriculturists of that region already regard as oppressive.—*Rural New Yorker*.

CANADIAN SHORTHORNS IN SCOTLAND.

Some of the Scotch grazing farmers like the big Canadian Shorthorn and cross bred oxen, large numbers of which have been imported during the past four or five years. These graze to heavier weights than any home-bred or Irish cattle to be bought at higher prices, but the generality of them are coarse-boned, and take longer to get fat. During the past fortnight an organization has been entered into by Aberdeenshire farmers for forming a limited liability company, with £12,000 capital, to carry out the object of regularly bringing cargoes of Canadian store cattle to the port of Aberdeen; and the harbour authorities have engaged to provide suitable accommodation by way of a landing-stage and cattle lairs.

TESTING FERTILIZERS.

Experimenting in a small way is the salvation for farmers who use commercial fertilizers. It is folly to depend entirely on one brand for all soils. The only way to find out what certain soils need is to try various fertilizers in a small way. I generally get a bag of every new fertilizer and give it a fair trial on different fields. If it does better than others I have used before, I get more of it the next year. If it falls behind I let it alone. I often find that a fertilizer does better on one field than on another, while some other fertilizer does best where the first one is poorest. I would be foolish indeed to continue using the fertilizer where it does poorly and equally foolish not to use it where it does well. Yet this may be just exactly what farmers do who never experiment.—*Rural New Yorker*.

UTILIZING OLD TIN CANS.

A correspondent of the *Maine Farmer* writes: "I gather all the old cans I can find in the fall and winter, and throw them into barrels for spring use. I put some good garden soil in the cellar and when the proper time comes, I put a lot of the cans in the stove with a flashing fire which readily un-solders them. I tie a turn of twine around the body of a can, just as many as I can set

in shallow boxes, fill them with a little superphosphate and good earth, and plant my garden seeds in them, and let them have a place in the kitchen. When the time comes for transplanting, I make the hills in the garden, dig a suitable hole in the hill, set out a can, cut the twine, let the can spring apart a little and slip it from the hill without disturbing the roots, and place the can above the hill as a protection from rains, winds and frosts as long as may be necessary. I have sweet corn and cucumbers two or three weeks ahead of others. For early wax beans, this is an excellent method. I have tried this plan for two years with good success."

REMEDY FOR CHOKING CATTLE.

Considering that cows often get choked, it is well to know of some quick and effectual remedy. A farmer's wife writes on the subject as follows: "A choking cow can often be relieved by pouring cold water into its ear. Take cold water in a pitcher or teapot, turn the animal's head to one side and pour a good stream directly into the ear. This will cause her to jump and shake her head fiercely, and this shaking motion will often dislodge the obstruction. The idea is to induce the animal to make an effort to relieve herself. The general practice of pushing the obstruction down the throat or crushing it gives the animal no chance to help itself. A good syringe would be the best thing to force the water into the ear, but as few families have one at hand the common teapot will answer."

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

Some of the varieties of evergreens are quite easily grown from cuttings, requiring no greater care than any intelligent person can readily bestow. Of these the Arbor vitae, juniper and yew are most easily grown.

The autumn of the year, about November, is the best time for planting out young currant and gooseberry trees; and at the most they should not be more than three years from the cutting, or if older than this at the time of planting, they should be cut back a little to strengthen the growth of the new wood. In the wane of the year, choose some good straight young shoots, healthy and well-grown, of about a foot in length or a little over; and from the part that you are about to insert below the surface of the soil cut carefully out all the eyes and buds, as this will afterwards serve to prevent suckers growing up and detracting from the strength of your young trees.

Sometimes trees get hide-bound from poverty of the soil, from exposure to hot sun, or from the attacks of insects. In this case a slitting of the bark by the pruning knife, up and down the stem, is beneficial.

FARM NOTES.

Clean off your horse thoroughly at night. Water and feed liberally, and give him a good bed to lie on. "Do to others as you would be done by," even if the "other" is a horse.

A new remedy for milk fever consists simply in covering the back of the cow with a woolen cloth and then rubbing the spine with a hot iron—the iron used for ironing clothes.

Fresh air-slacked lime thrown around the places occupied by hogs for their sleeping berths is a very good precautionary measure looking to the preservation of the animal's health.

The pig pen should be clean and dry. If it is wet, foul or nasty, or even dusty, it will be bad for the pigs, and a very small injury to young pigs may stunt them and invite disease.

Sheep require careful watching, for if they get into trouble of any sort, as getting down in gullies or fastened in between logs or fence rails, they become so frightened or discouraged they succumb at once and die.

How the Queen Travels.

The Queen's saloons are in the centre of the train, and these commodious carriages, fitted for day and night travelling, her Majesty occupies with Princess Beatrice. There are two beds in the sleeping compartment, which opens from the day saloon. The beds are simple, in green and gilt furniture and fittings, something like elaborate "cots" in shape, and generally the interior fittings of the train leave nothing to be desired. The floors are carpeted, the ceilings padded, the wide windows curtained, the lamps deeply shaded. Electric bells communicate with the attendants or the officials, and by pressing a button at the end of a long variegated cord or bell-pull the alarm is sounded in the van. A separate electric button is fixed in each side of the sleeping compartment, by which the attendants may be summoned; another button, when pressed, will cause the train to stop as quickly as may be.

There are the Westinghouse, vacuum and ordinary brakes fitted to the train, which are worked as required by the exigencies of the locomotives of the different companies over whose lines her Majesty travels, some engines being fitted with vacuum and others with the Westinghouse brakes. The usual furniture, comfortable but simple, and a lavatory are all included in the Queen's saloons. There are hooks and racks for parcels, wraps, bird cages and small bundles, of which her Majesty and the Princess convey a goodly supply. The late John Brown used to occupy a seat in the royal day saloon, back to the engine as the train stood and facing the door of the Queen's apartments, so as to be within call at once.

The carriages are warmed with hot-water pipes. Nothing is wanted to render the journey as little irksome and as little fatiguing as possible. The carriages exteriorly are bright and clean and newly polished. The wheels are "solid"—blocks of wood taking the place of spokes; the springs are massive; the tires glide smoothly over the rails; the carriage steps lie down as in road carriages, and the wide plate-glass windows permit an extensive view of the country through which the train is passing.

The Germans are training dogs to do outpost duty in the army and perform all sorts of military services. In addition to the canine contingent the Prussians are mobilising a lot of hawks for the capture of the French carrier pigeons.

The heaviest locomotive in the world weighs 160,000 pounds, and is on the Canadian Pacific. The next heaviest is the Southern Pacific's, 151,000 pounds; the third weighs 145,000 pounds, and is on the Northern Pacific; and Brazil owns the fourth, weighing 144,000 pounds.—*Ex.*

HEALTH.

HINTS ON PRESERVING HEALTH.

The countless pores of the skin are so many little drain-tiles for the refuse of the system. If they become clogged and so deadened in their action, we must expect to become the prey of ill-health in some one of its countless forms. Let us not be afraid of a wet sponge and brisk exercise with a rough towel every day. Never wear at night the undergarments that are worn through the day.

Devote eight hours a day to sleep. Children should be allowed to sleep until they wake of their own accord.

Never go out with an empty stomach to work in the early morning in any locality subject to damps, fogs, and unhealthy vapours. If there is not time to wait for a cup of coffee or tea, pour two-thirds of a cup of boiling water on two teaspoonfuls of cream, or a beaten egg, season it with salt and pepper, and drink it while hot before going out. This will stimulate and comfort the stomach, and aid the system in resisting a poisonous or debilitating atmosphere.

Avoid over-eating. To rise from the table when able to eat a little more is a proverbially good rule. There is nothing more unwise than forcing down a few mouthfuls because they happen to remain on one's plate after hunger is satisfied, and because they may be "wasted" if left! It is the most serious waste to over-tax the stomach with even half-an-ounce more than it needs.

Avoid all foods and drinks that are known to "disagree" with the system. Suppers, if taken, should always consist of easily-digested foods; the stomach is as much entitled as the head to profound rest. The moral firmness to take such food and no other for the last meal of the day can be easily acquired, and the reward is sound sleep, a clear head, and a capital appetite for breakfast.

Never sleep in polluted air. The air in all bed-rooms that have no open window, and which are otherwise not ventilated, rapidly becomes impure when they are slept in. Indeed, the air in a closed bedroom is often unpleasant without anyone in it. No one, not even the most delicate, should sleep without a portion of the window down. To practice this winter and summer tends to a sound chest. The bed should stand out of a draught, and the sleeper should be more warmly covered than he need be in a closely shut-up room. We have often a good fire of a winter's night to dry and warm the bedroom, but before lying down the window is slightly opened so as to secure sleep in pure air.

Aromatic ammonia is a most useful remedy. Half a teaspoonful eaten in half a tumbler of water is far better for faintness than alcoholic stimulants. In the temperance hospital in London it is used with the best results. It was used freely by Lieut. Greely's arctic party for keeping up circulation. It is a relief in nervousness, headache, and heart disturbances. It has been seen to restore a person prostrated by the fumes of gas, and the recovery was without bad effects. As in the case of all home-dosing, aromatic ammonia should be used sparingly and kept out of the baby's eyes.

American Landlords.

A correspondent, writing from Albany, N. Y., says that Irish landlords are ten times more lenient towards their tenants than American. In his city, he says, the tenant, no matter of what age, condition or sex, is "put on the sidewalk" if the rent be not paid within ten days, and it is noticeable that the most severe landlords are the members of the local branch of the Land League.

A despatch from Wilkesbarre, Penn., last week gave a graphic account of the harsh treatment meted out to tenants in the coal regions. At Hazelbrook the proprietors of the mines own every foot of the land in the locality, and will neither sell nor lease it. Instead, they have built miserable hovels which the miners are compelled to occupy at a rental of from \$5 to \$8 a month. These tenants are also obliged to sign an agreement that the month they cease to work for the firm they will vacate their houses, the firm having the right to eject them and throw out all their furniture on ten days' notice. Some days ago the miners struck because three of their number had been discharged without cause and ordered out of their houses. On the 14th inst., a deputy sheriff and a number of Pinkerton men appeared in the village, entered the dwellings of six of the men, drove out the inmates, threw out all their furniture and personal possessions, and nailed up the houses. The wife of one of the men lay in bed ill at the time, but she was forced to get up and go. The bed was thrown out, and it was with difficulty that permission was obtained for her to stay over night in a wagon shed belonging to the firm. The six evicted families were left shelterless on the mountain side with only a few goods around them. Notice had been served that any who sheltered or assisted the evicted would be themselves immediately turned out of their homes. No one, therefore, dared offer assistance, and the little group of men, women and children passed the night huddled together in the open air. They were unable to move away with their furniture, as no wagons were allowed on the firm's premises. And yet we look in vain in the press of the United States for any outburst of indignation at such proceedings. There is plenty of sympathy for Irish tenants, but none for those at home.

Murderous Millinery.

A lady told me the other day a painful little incident relating to wearing birds on your bonnets and hats. I will try to give her own words. She said

"One day our pastor said (during service) that when he was in Florence a lady came to him and said, 'Do come with me and hear those birds sing, oh! such mournful notes!' There was a room full of birds in very small cages, and these birds were all blind; they had had their eyes put out. In the night the owners take them outside the city and hang the cages in trees. The trees are then all smeared with tar. These birds keep up their pitiful singing, and other birds are attracted to the cages and are stuck on the tar and then they are caught and their eyes put out. And these birds are killed and sent to America for ladies to wear on their bonnets."

"And I looked around the congregation to see what ladies had birds on their bonnets and I was glad there was none on mine, and I don't think I can ever wear a bird again."

ABOUT WOMEN.

NO SEX IN INDUSTRY.

The most original and beautiful piece of wood-carving yet done in America has been accomplished by a young woman who, travelling in Switzerland with her father, persuaded him to give her the opportunity to learn the rudiments of the art. Determination to excel, the fine conscience of the artist, and endless practice have developed a genius.

Some years ago a New Jersey girl of sixteen proposed to go into her father's shop to help him through a period of debt and discouragement. His business was making spindles and flatters. "He told me," said her biographer, "that in twelve months she could do more work, and do it better, than any man he had ever trained in eighteen months." Her father died. Her two oldest brothers learned the trade from her and went away. Two younger sisters, and a brother fourteen years of age, all worked under her, turning, polishing, filing, and fitting all kinds of machinery. When I last saw her she was making water-rams to force streams into barns and houses. She also turns out many kinds of carriage axles. She is her own draughtsman, and occasionally does her own forging. She understands every part of a steam-engine, and her work prospers because she loves it and does it thoroughly well. This young machinist would have had no chance at all had not her wise father perceived that hands were of no sex.

THE POOR MOTHER-IN-LAW.

Archdeacon Kirby, in a recent account of his life-long experiences as a missionary among the Indians in British Columbia, remarked upon the extreme difficulty of making them comprehend the simplest Scriptural teachings, illustrated it by saying that he gave a series of lessons on each of the Commandments separately to a class of young Alaskan braves. He dwelt especially upon the principle involved in the Sixth Commandment, explaining to them clearly what murder meant, and what a dreadful crime it was in the eyes of God and man. To test their comprehension of what he had said, he then asked all those in the class who had committed murder to stand up. Only three arose. He was very much surprised, as he knew that they had all been on the war path repeatedly, and boasted of their scalps. He went carefully over the explanation once more, and again asked them to arise. The same three came to their feet. "Why, surely," he said, in despair, "this can't be all that have committed murder." After a moment's reflection. "Will all those who have tomahawked their mother-in-law please stand up?" Nineteen arose.

A Florida woman has reared twenty-four children to the age of maturity, and yet she flies into her housework as though everything was getting behind and she was afraid she wouldn't do her duty.

We think a man's maiden aunt just as capable of voting as a man's tobacco chewing, whisky guzzling, bachelor uncle. We protest against general "cussedness" being made one of the requirements of citizenship, and we are simple enough to believe that even a decent woman can become worthy of having the ballot placed in her hands.—*Capital*.

"How do you capture the men?" said a pert miss to a woman who had just married her third husband. "Oh, well," was the reply, "I don't, like a young girl, put about trifles, but if I want a man I make him believe that he is the best and smartest individual I ever met. That always settles it, for a man loses his head as soon as a woman begins flattering him."

The richest woman in America is Mrs. Hetty Green, who is worth nearly fifty millions. She is a very bright, keen old woman, and by her successful speculations has increased the twelve millions left her by her father and aunt, when a young girl, to the enormous sum above named. She is excessively mean, and when she goes to Chicago on business stays with a poor sister-in-law to save hotel fare, and does her own washing while there. She saves about \$100,000 a year in the way of taxes by having no settled residence. She has a son who when a lad, some few years ago, broke his leg. A friend sent a well-known surgeon, and Mrs. Green represented that she could ill afford the necessary apparatus, which was furnished by a hospital, the surgeon making only a nominal charge. A few weeks later the surgeon discovered that this woman was worth millions of dollars and immediately sent a bill for \$1,000, which was paid under the threat that if it were not he would sue her for it. Poor Hetty Green! Who would be willing to take her wealth if obliged also to take her disposition?

That man should be ninety per cent water seems incredible until we meet those who never like to pay for their own beverages. It is never a surprise that a sponge would hold so much.

The Department of Agriculture is about to issue a report on the English sparrow, in which that vicious little feathered hoodlum is shown up in all his miserable villainy. The testimony of over three thousand people appears in the report, and is substantially unanimous in its strong condemnation of the bird as a pest that should be exterminated.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition, so the latest official statistics show, was attended by no fewer than 5,550,745 persons. The number is greater than was the whole population of England and Wales in Oliver Cromwell's time, and greater by half a million than the entire population of the Dominion to-day.

The London mint is hard at work on the British new coinage to be issued June 22nd. A very fine proof of an elderly queen, modelled by Mr. Boehm, will be used, with varying crowns for the several coins. Of these the most interesting will be a novel double florin, or four shilling piece, of the size and practical value of our silver dollar and the Continental five-franc piece.

An expert burglar declares that dogs are easily managed, but there are several things about a house which will cause a burglar to try almost any house before one so protected. In the order of their usefulness as house protectors he places them thus:—A baby, a female dog within the house, a female dog without the house, a light. Thus it will be seen, that a baby, and the more immature and helpless the better, is a better protector to a country house than its stalwart father, for where there is a baby there is sure to be a sleepless eye watching it.

Healthfulness of Tomatoes.

Thomas Jefferson brought the tomato from France, thinking that if it could be induced to grow bountifully in America it might be a good food for hogs. It was for a long time regarded as a curiosity. I remember hearing my mother tell that in her day it was raised in the flower gardens and called a love apple. Now it is used on the table of the poorest man, and the art of canning English travellers remark that on American tables it is almost as common as the potato. A writer says that it is interesting to speculate upon the relationship between Irish history and the Peruvian tuber, and it is hardly less interesting to wonder what effect the liberal use of tomatoes have had upon the American physique.

An article of food which is so generally used and which has a specific effect upon the human system, must make a difference upon the physique of the people. For one thing tomato-eating persons are less bilious than they used to be. With many the fruit has an effect upon the liver, and is almost as good as a small dose of blue-pill. It is certain at least that mercury is used less frequently by the physicians of the present day than by physicians of old. Still this may be accounted for by the fact that many new and less drastic remedies, like podophyllin, have been discovered, and that the doctors of the new school do not believe in as severe remedies as did those of the past.

Old toppers say that a man whose stomach is endeavoring to recover from nausea and debility after drinking, can find nothing so good as raw tomatoes, with the single exception of clam juice. I have known more than one case where a person afflicted with Bright's disease has been greatly benefited by making tomatoes in some shape a constant article of diet. The friends of General Schenck, who when Minister to England ate large and rich dinners, and became a victim to that complaint, so that his life was despaired of, say that for two years he confined himself to a diet of skim-milk and tomatoes and was cured. There are people who think that over-indulgence in the use of this fruit will produce cancer, but we do not believe that cancer is more prevalent than formerly, or that many cases of it can be traced to the extravagant use of tomatoes. Dio Lewis, who was considerable of crank when all is said and done, said that an over-liberal eating of tomatoes would produce salivation. Of the truth of this statement we have no knowledge, but have never met any one suffering in that way from such a cause.

An Epicure who is famous as a play-writer, and who was afflicted with Bright's disease, says that the proper way to prepare a tomato that is to be eaten raw, is to dip it for a second into boiling water, peel off the skin, which will then slip off easily; let it get very cold, and eat it with only salt. Its own acid is sufficient without vinegar. Be careful, however, about buying tomatoes in tin cans that are over a year old. In fact they are so much better when sealed up in glass jars, and so easily canned, and both the jars and the fruit are so cheap in the height of the latter's season, that we would advise every housekeeper to put up her own tomatoes.

Rich Men's Sons.

A wealthy broker of New York began life as a farm-hand in New Jersey. He had the craving natural to a poor boy for fine clothes, a splendid house, luxury of every kind. To acquire these, he worked hard with brain and body.

As he rose in life, he was thrown in contact with educated men, great financiers, rulers of commerce, artists, teachers, scientific men. His own intellect, strengthened by its work, was bold and broad enough to appreciate them all.

By the time he was fifty, he cared little for the physical luxuries which his money could buy for him. His pursuits, apart from his business, were noble and elevating—those which belong to a many-sided, enlightened American, who keeps abreast of his time in its great movements.

His son, on the contrary, was born in the lap of riches. Luxuries, the lack of which urged his father to incessant activity, were as familiar to him as the air and daily sunshine. Fine clothes, rich food, amusements of all kinds, gave him little pleasure; they were matters of course.

He knew no life of which they were not a part. He did not work at school or at college. Why should he? Other men worked to make a place for themselves in the world. His place was already made for him. He needed no more millions than his father could give him.

He had literally nothing to do but to amuse himself.

Now, there is but a limited number of amusements in the world, and after a certain time the senses, the nerves, the whole body grow jaded with each of them.

By the time this young man had reached the age of twenty-five, he was as sated with pleasure as a gray-haired debauchee. Cards, wine, sport, travel, bored him; his physical strength was exhausted; his mind, though still immature, was almost imbecile. When a sudden attack of illness carried him out of this world, nobody in it was sorry; himself, perhaps, least of all.

The story of this rich man and his son has been repeated countless times in the lives of our rich men.

The "gilded youth" of our great cities grow weary of balls, of steam yachts, of even the theatres, gambling and drink. Their jaded appetites crave stronger diet.

In the great centres of riches and folly some of them crowd in the small hours of the morning to dens unknown to the police, to see brutal combats between prize-fighters. At a recent fight between a woman and a dog, the ring was surrounded by men worth millions.

"The only real sensation I have enjoyed for years," said one of this class lately, "was in China last July, when I saw the executioner chop off five heads in an hour."

At heart, these lads are made of as good, manly stuff as others. They are victims to the popular idea that the sole use of money is amusement. Even when weighted by huge fortune, as Napoleon Bonaparte once wrote to his marshal, "Surely, we should endeavor to do something; to say that we have lived; to leave some impress of our lives upon the sands of Time."

One of the highest-salaried workmen in Chicago is an expert safe-opener employed by a large safe and lock company there. He was once a well-known burglar, but reformed when released from the penitentiary a few years ago. He then secured employment with the firm and has been with them ever since.