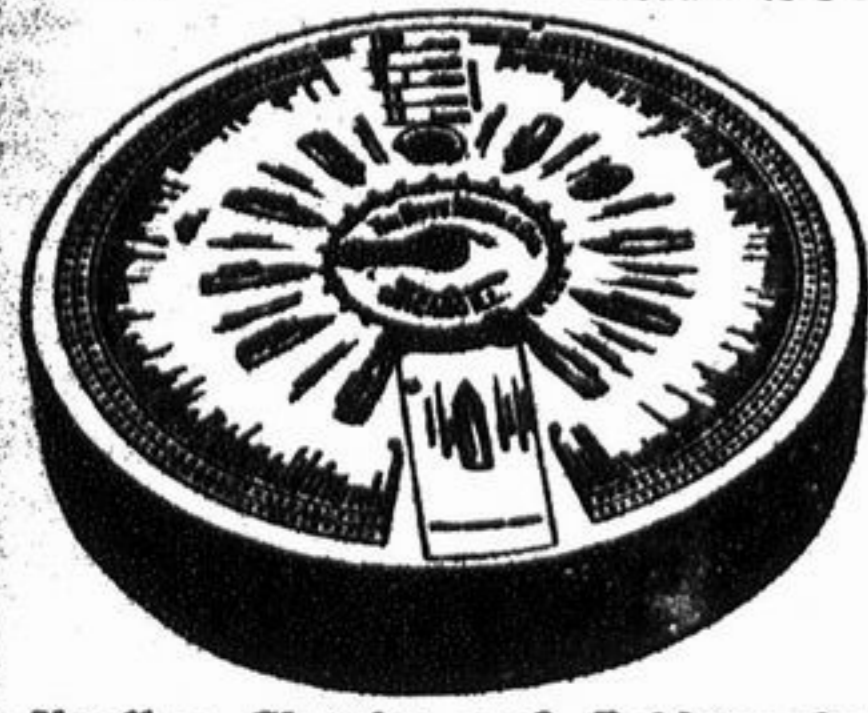


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FARMS AND FARMERS



Stack Cover.
The accompanying illustration shows a cheap device for covering a stack of clover hay, where there is no slough grass at hand to put on top.
In making this cover common boards may be used from 12 to 16 feet long, a foot or more wide, putting one on top of the stack first, then slipping one on each side under the top one, about two inches and fastening by driving a common fence staple over a smooth wire just at the edge of the upper board, so as to make a sharp bend in the wire over the edge, and so on down as far as wanted. Six or eight boards on each side will generally be sufficient; then fasten a post, stone or



weight of some kind at the end of the wires and the thing is done. This arrangement also saves the trouble of putting on banners as it answers the same purpose. Two wires to each length of boards, about two feet from the ends, and as many sections as may be needed for the length of stack, putting the middle section on last with the ends lapping over the next one, is all the material that is needed. In using the hay a section of this cover may be taken off by drawing out the staples and the stack cut down so as to leave the cover on the remainder. The same boards can be used over and over again for a number of years.

Get After the Fly.
Flies are one of the most aggravating pests we have on the farm. If we give them a breathing spell the poor cows, calves and horses have to suffer and the supply of milk will run short. It is either "fight or lose." It is not sufficient to just spray the animals with a fly-repelling mixture in the morning and then turn them out to pasture.
A few hours later, when I go to look after them in the pasture, they are often covered with blood-sucking flies again, so I take a hand sprayer loaded with a liquid of which kerosene forms a large portion and spray this right upon the flies on each animal.
The cows soon learn that spraying means relief and they will hold still while you spray. The flies quickly let go of their hold and fall to the ground when the kerosene touches them. Visiting the animals once or twice a day in this manner is a great help to them during the fly season.—L. R. Johnson, Illinois.

Guide for Drag Saws.
A very simple method by which one man can manipulate a drag saw to cut down trees has been devised by a Western timberman. In using these saws two men have heretofore been necessary, one at each end of the saw. The arrangement of the drag-saw guide is shown in the illustration.
Resting against the tree is a rod, from which is suspended a cord. At the end of the cord is an adjustable clamp, to which one end of the saw is secured. At the other end of the saw is a handle. In operating the saw to cut the tree, the end opposite the handle is supported by the cord in the same position as if operated by hand. With the employment of this guide the necessity of an extra man to manage one end of the saw is eliminated.

A Help in Fruit Picking.
In commercial orcharding it is generally most economical to have picking and packing work going on concurrently. This saves putting the apples on the ground and having to handle them again. A portable sorting table upon which pickers can empty their bags is placed on low truck wheels and a single horse can move it to any desired point as the work proceeds. It should be made large enough to hold not less than two barrels of fruit.
The rear bolster is higher than that at the open end, so that the culls can be rolled out. A long, heavy plank is placed on the ground on each side of this table on which the barrels are set for filling. The culls are allowed to roll into a pile from the lower end of the grading table.

Potatoes and Dairying.
Potatoes are a crop that is well adapted to most farms where dairying is being carried on. They come at the time of the year when the dairy work is not pressing, and outside of digging they are as easy to handle as the same number of acres of corn. When we buy large amounts of commercial feed-stuffs and mill feed, the amount of fertility removed by selling the potatoes is more than offset by what is brought on the farm by buying grain food for the cows. Then the same amount of help required to manage the dairy work can handle the potato crop. Plant a large enough field to make it profitable to own a digger, as this saves the most disagreeable part of the work.

Preserving the Michigan Horse.
Colonel Russell of Middlebury, Vt., is entitled to the honor of preserving the Morgan horse from extinction. He

has enlisted the United States Department of Agriculture in the work of restoring to its old-time standard this beautiful horse, and for that purpose has deeded to the government 500 acres of pasture and woodland. The horses now on the farm are headed by a stallion that cost \$4,000.

Pasturing on Arid Land.
Successful farming on arid land without artificial watering has been brought to the notice of the Agricultural Society of Germany, with an explanation of the method. In Syria and Palestine, with practically no rain from April to October, the fields in July have a flourishing abundance of watermelons, cucumbers, tomatoes and other products, and plants continue green and thriving until autumn. The secret lies in so plowing that the winter rains are absorbed and retained in the subsoil. The plowing is shallow, averaging only 4 to 6 inches in depth, and after the fall harvest it follows each heavy rain as soon as the ground begins to dry, the purpose being to keep a loose and friable surface to take up the water from the subsoil. In the spring the land is plowed to a depth of about 6 inches. The seed is dropped by the plow upon the moist subsoil and it is covered by the closing up of the loose soil. Protected by the loose covering, the subsoil furnishes sufficient moisture for plant growth during the entire dry season.

Destroying Weeds.
In destroying annual weeds one method is to disk the stubble fields, causing the weed seed to germinate, after which they can be killed by subsequent cultivation or by frost. Another method is to turn live stock, especially sheep into these stubble fields to eat up the weeds and weed seeds. The value of cultivated crops, rotations and summer fallows is also discussed.

The eradication of perennials is more difficult than in the case of annuals. For these they tried muslin crops, bare fallow, chemicals and tar paper. For small areas of quack grass, covering with tar paper was found effective, but was too costly for field application. As quack grass is similar to Bermuda grass in its habit of spreading, and it equally persistent, this method may be of interest to those who wish to kill small areas of Bermuda.

The Horse's Teeth at Nine Years.



At nine years the mark in the corner teeth of the upper jaw is clearly defined; the mark is still visible in the middle teeth, but has almost disappeared from the alipers.



A side view of upper jaw at nine years. The point D is the indentation usually seen in corner tooth.

Strawberry Borer.
Frequent crop rotation is the only practical remedy for the well-known strawberry crown borer. The infested field should be burned over in the fall and the next year planted to some other crop, upon which the pest cannot thrive.

Notes About the Farm.
The hens ought to have a little grain every day all during the summer.

Feeding heavily on whole corn has a tendency to induce hens to become broody.

Try to arrange to give each horse on the farm a three weeks' vacation on grass.

Keep the stables and the yards clean, so that flies and insects have no breeding places.

Beets or mangel wurzels make fine food for poultry. They should be chopped fine.

Do not fail to provide a shelter under which the young chicks can scurry in case of sudden storms.

Boiled eggs should never be fed to very young chicks and should never be fed more than twice a week.

The poor cow seems to be continually with us. Get rid of her and thus reduce the cost of production.

Keep the milking stable darkened and screened, and spray the cows every day. It will pay in dollars and cents.

The man who starts with little money in the dairy business is likely to make the most in the end, for he must be careful enough to acquire the habit.

Clover is a very valuable feeding crop, because it contains so much of the element of protein, which is the element in feeding crops that costs the most.

Acidity in milk is incipient decomposition, and it is the most delicate flavored oils which suffer first of all among the fats of which butter is composed.

Every successful breeder has some hobby, some originality that leads him to improve some particular characteristic of his cows and improve them in some one particular point.

Never dose a healthy horse. All he needs is good care and good feed. The good care includes, of course, regular exercise. It is just as bad for a horse to be all the time taking medicine as it is for a man. Do not do it.

Sermons of the Week

Daily Experiences.
Our daily experiences are but so much clay, which we shape into forms beautiful or hideous.—Rev. George R. Gebauer, Duluth.

The Nation's Safety.
To preserve our nation we must love hope, God and Bible as our forefathers did.—Rev. John G. Slayter, Church of Christ, Pittsburg.

Jesus' Commercial Ability.
Jesus was an ideal business man. He knew a good bargain, and never placed restriction upon legitimate trade.—Rev. J. W. Webb, Baptist, Aurora, Ill.

Reproduction.
Every man ought to reproduce himself through some good deed or person that works for him.—Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, Congregationalist, Brooklyn.

Righteousness.
The first determining element of influence is righteousness, plain, every day righteousness. It is more essential by far than mere respectability.—Rev. George Hodges, Episcopalian, Boston.

Useful Hours.
There is divine harmony in the world by usefulness we all may get in touch with this harmony and find our lives growing sweeter and better.—Rev. William Wilkinson, Evangelist, New York City.

Money and Morals.
If American fathers would spend less time making money for their families and more time in making the morals of their families their children would be better off.—Rev. W. W. Bustard, Baptist, Boston.

Godliness.
Godliness is a thing that can be appropriated. If you desire to live a certain kind of a life you can attain your aim by living that life. The way to be a Christian is to live a Christian life.—Rev. S. Boynton, Congregationalist, New York City.

Best to Come.
It is better to be always arriving than to have arrived. The best is always before us. When we reach the grave it is still yonder with us—God's great yonder—and so the best is always to come.—Rev. Dr. J. E. Bushnell, Presbyterian, Minneapolis.

The Orthodox Hell.
Neither tyrant nor fanatic ever conceived a more diabolical scheme than that of the orthodox hell. If the Supreme Being tortures unbelievers with unquenchable fire then Nero was but a feeble imitator of His.—Rev. F. W. Taylor, Universalist, Brooklyn.

The Life of a Nation.
Unlike the citizens that compose it, a nation has only a mortal life. Therefore, its rewards and punishments, its successes and failures, its helpful and harmful influences, are to be determined this side of eternity.—Rev. Charles H. Hyde, Presbyterian, Little Rock, Ark.

The Star of Bethlehem.
Are we following the star? Are we allowing the Star of Bethlehem and all that it stands for to be the dominating influence in our life? Are we doing our best to bring others to the feet of the Christ, that they may have something of the peace and joy that passeth understanding?—Rev. Walter R. Tourtellot, Episcopalian, Providence.

Nash's Flood.
Fresh from the workshop of Divine Omnipotence the earth stood on its wax, balanced by the pre-existence of land. But as centuries of snow and ice accumulated at the poles, this balance was disturbed, and as a result the flood.—Rev. Zed H. Capps, Bethany Chapel, Washington.

The Spirit of Christ.
Behind all our splendid knowledge of medicine, behind all our glorious victories in the campaign against disease and pain, behind all the great and noble names of the medical profession there stands that spirit of philanthropy which is the spirit of Christ.—Rev. C. W. Wadde, Cherry, Presbyterian, Troy, N. Y.

The Home.
We are rapidly becoming a nation of boarders. There is too little of the home life; we lose sight of our families; we are not in close touch with our parents. There is something indescribably beautiful about the word "home" with all the associations which it calls to mind.—Rev. George Bailey, Presbyterian, Washington.

Christ's Purpose.
The church must more truly share Christ's purpose. That purpose He Himself stated when He said, "The Son of Man came to seek and save that which is lost." How much seeking to save the lost is there? Precious little. Until there is more generally an interest in the salvation of others on the part of the individual member of the church, she will not be His fit representative.—Rev. John Balcom Shaw, Presbyterian, Chicago.

The Church.
The church is not organized for the protection, but for the dissemination of the truth. It is not a parking box for storing away, but a pillar for upholding the truth—a lampstand from which the truth as light shall be shed upon the world. The church is responsible for reaching the lost. It must so conduct itself that no one will be neglected. It must enter the whole world as its field of labor. If the truth is withheld from any creature it is falling short of its responsibility.—Rev. F. H. Given, Presbyterian, Springfield, Ill.

You can generally tell a man's business by what he rests his eyes upon. If he looks at your shoes, he is in the shoe business; if he gazes at your clothes, he has something to do with the clothing business; when he eyes your watch he is a jeweler, and a hatter always glances at your file. The above is only true of men. When two women meet, they look each other all over.

If a loafer is not a nuisance to you, it is an indication that you are something of a loafer yourself.

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