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FARMERS CORNER

Profit from Poultry.

Poultrymen estimate that it costs 1 cent apiece to produce an egg. The estimate is based on the fact that the hen lays 120 eggs in the year. In other words, where the fowls are confined/to runs, and the feed must be purchased, it costs 10 cents a month or $1.20 a year to maintain a hen. If the hen is an indifferent layer and gives but sixty eggs in a year, her eggs cost the poultryman 2 cents each.

An experiment conducted by the Cornell experiment station in 1902 showed that the average cost of feed for a dozen eggs was 9.2 cents, or about ¾ of a cent an egg. The cost for each hen for the year was 99.6 cents. At that time wheat was sold at $1.45 a hundred pounds, while at the present time it is $2; bran sold at $1.35 a hundred pounds and it is now $1.80; and meat scraps cost $2.15 a hundred pounds and now we pay $2.40. So at the present increased price of feed, the cost of feeding the hen is easily 20 cents a year more than it was in 1902.

To make poultry profitable on the farm it is necessary to breed for better laying. This is done by installing trap nests in the henhouses, and each year picking out the best layers and breeding only from such. The farmer must grade up his stock. He must get rid of the mongrel birds; he must drive out the drones, and must encourage the workers. The farm must produce better poultry and more of it.

There are advantages on the farm for poultry raising that the poultryman does not have, and if the latter, in many ways handicapped, can make poultry keeping a successful business, the farmer should at least make the work a valuable adjunct to his income. Properly managed poultry can be made the most profitable crop on the farm—investment, expense and labor considered.

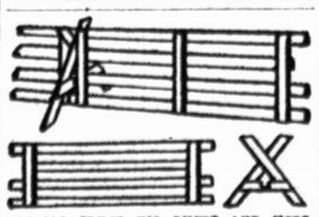
It is argued by some farmers that their hens cost them practically nothing, as they have free range and can gather all the food they need. There is some truth in that, and there also is some truth in the fact that farmers' flocks seldom yield a profit compared with stock in the hands of a regular poultryman.

Feeding Meal, Wet or Dry.

Many of our farmers seem to hold the opinion that feeding meal wet to their cows will bring better results than when fed dry. One old farmer makes the remark, "how can the cow get any goodness out of a pan of dry meal?" yet notwithstanding the fact that so many dairymen hold to the practice of feeding the meal wet, the experiments to date indicate that better results are obtained by feeding it dry. Professor Jordan, of the Maine Experiment Station, fed a bunch of calves corn and cob meal with long hay in dry form, as against hay which was run through a feed cutter, moistened and sprinkled with corn and cob meal. The results were in favor of the dry feeding. The gain was greater, and less feed was required for 100 pounds of gain. Professor Jordan also conducted an experiment with two herds of dairy cows, one herd was fed dry feed, while the feed of the other was moistened. The greater yield of milk was obtained from the herd that received the dry feed.

Temporary Sheep Fence.

One of the best portable fences for use in soiling sheep is made in panels with supports, as shown in the sketch.



MOVABLE FENCE FOR SHEEP AND HOGS.

Panels are 10 feet long, made of 4-inch board solidly nailed together. After this fence is once put up, sheep are not likely to overturn it. A fence 3½ feet high will turn most flocks.—Farm and Home.

Salting Down Meat.

Curing meat for future consumption is one of the annual jobs on the farm. In some sections of the country, says the Journal of Agriculture, the problem of salting down meat is a serious one because of the heat. In sections of the South there are winters when there is very little cold weather and it is not until late that hogs may be slaughtered. Here is a recipe which is said to be a good one: For 1,000 pounds of meat take ten quarts of saltpeter, 1 pound of pepper and 2 pounds of yellow sugar. Mix well, put in a tub or some suitable vessel, and then apply the mixture well to the meat. This is said to be the most successful method of salting meat there is, both from a standpoint of purity and flavor.

Good Dairy Animals.

There is plenty of good dairy blood to go around, but there are too many dairymen who are not looking for it. Some dairymen raise every heifer, regardless of its individuality or breeding, while some other dairymen with a much better herd will not raise any of his heifer calves. What a great improvement it would make if some exchange of calves could be made so that the man with conveniences and natural ability could grow the very best calves from the milk-producing cows.

Quarter Crack.

This is one of the most serious troubles with which we have to contend in our dry climate. When a crack appears it is a difficult matter to [illegible]

prevention is all important. There is no need to cut out the sole or open the heels, as it is called. The frog and heels should be left absolutely alone, and they cannot be too well developed. The sole will take care of itself, for nature exfoliates dead horn as required. Keep the wall rounded at the ground surface, the toe short and the frog prominent, and with few exceptions horses will come through all right.—Field and Farm.

Nitrogen.

While visiting a practical farmer a few weeks ago he said that where everything was fed out on the farm and the manure returned to the soil it should grow richer instead of poorer and that furthermore there was less connected with the farm when it was conducted on these principles than when the system was varied from year to year.

One thing is certain, the growing and feeding of live stock on the farms compels the growth of crops to feed that are best adapted for the production of flesh and animal products. Prominent among these crops are clover, alfalfa and the other nitrogen gathering plants that possess a high feeding value and are relished by animals on account of their palatability.

We cannot too often repeat the fact that the farmers who follow a short crop rotation, in which a legume is grown every third year, need not worry about maintaining an adequate supply of nitrogen, providing he feeds these crops to live stock and saves the manure, both liquid and solid, and returns it to the soil. When nitrogenous grain foods are purchased and fed to the animals in connection with the home-grown foods the increase in nitrogen is still greater.—Agricultural Epitomist.

Feeding Milk Cows.

Milk contains water, fat, protein (casein and curd), sugar and ash, and these are all made from the constituents of the food. If sufficient protein, fat and carbohydrates are not contained in the food given her, the cow supplies this deficiency for a time by drawing on her own body, and gradually begins to shrink in quantity and quality of milk, or both. The stingy feeder cheats himself as well as the cow. She may suffer from hunger, although she is full of swale and hay, but she also becomes poor and does not yield the milk and butter she should. Her milk glands are a wonderful machine, but they cannot make milk casein (curd) out of the constituents in coarse, unappetizing, indigestible swale hay or sawdust any more than the farmer himself can make butter from skim milk. She must not only have a generous supply of good food, but it must contain sufficient amounts of the nutrients needed for making milk. Until this fact is understood and appreciated, successful, profitable dairying is out of the question. Many forcible illustrations of its truthfulness have been furnished by the agricultural experiment stations.—H. B. Speed.

Helping the Farmer.

In an important interview with Gifford Pinchot, the government forester, and a member of the Country Life Commission, recently appointed by Mr. Roosevelt, given to Edward I. Farrington, the following points are elaborated:

The things which the Country Life Commission desires to do, above all else, is to make the fact plain that there is a tremendous problem before the American farmer to-day.

The things which must be secured for the farmer are better farming materials, better business and a better living. The commission is concerned with the two latter.

Everything which has to do with making farm life efficient and pleasant will receive particular attention, for this is one of the most important of all agricultural problems.

The commission will make no attempt to impose anything on the farmer, to dictate to him, or to carry paternalism to an objectionable degree. The facts are to be assembled in as complete a form as possible and placed before the farmer in logical order.

Preserving Milk.

A German patent specification describes a process for preserving milk by removing all dissolved oxygen by means of the addition of a small quantity of ferrous carbonate. The process is based on the fact that freshly-precipitated ferrous corbonate in the presence of oxygen immediately assimilates oxygen and evolves an equivalent quantity of carbon dioxide. One part of ferrous carbonate is sufficient for 50,000 parts milk, and the properties of the milk are not altered in any way by the addition, which should be made before the milk is boiled.

Work Hours of Farmers.

Professor Boss, of the Minnesota Agricultural College, says that statistics of the actual hours of labor on the farms investigated show that farmers work nine hours a day in summer and between four and five in winter. Professor Bailey, of the Farm Life Commission, tells the story of the schoolma'am working from 9 to 4 until she married a farmer, and had to work from 4 to 9. Moral, schoolma'ams make good wives for farmers.

A Balanced Ration.

Corn and clover pasture forms a nearly balanced ration, and there will be little danger of injuring the breeding qualities of the pigs if they are allowed plenty of corn and the run of a good clover pasture.

Horse Meat.

In Paris last year 40,298 horses were killed for food, which was 5,000 more than the previous year. These animals yielded 26,600,000 pounds of meat for human consumption.

Impossible Boy.

Small Boy (applying for situation)—What kind of a boy does yer want?

Merchant—A nice quiet boy that doesn't use bad words, smoke cigarettes, whistle around the office, play [illegible]

POPULAR SCIENCE

The only living blue bird of paradise in captivity recently was brought to the London zoological gardens at great expense from its native wilds in the Orient.

Imitation coral is made from resin, four parts; beeswax three parts, and vermilion two parts, melted together and thoroughly mixed, then applied to wire or wooden forms.

Although 9,795,698,000 common brick were made in the United States in 1907, the production was 2.31 per cent behind that of 1906. Illinois and New York lead in the industry.

Leather may be waterproofed by painting it with a combination of two ounces each of Burgundy pitch, soft wax and turpentine and one ounce of raw linseed oil, applied warm.

The property which makes selenium interesting and useful is its capability of acting as a fairly good conductor of electricity under the influence of light, while in the dark it is practically a non-conductor. This property has rendered selenium useful for automatically lighting and extinguishing gas buoys, for exploding torpedoes by a ray of light, for telephoning with a ray of light, for transmitting sounds and reproducing pictures at a distance by means of electric wires, and for measuring the Roentgen rays used for therapeutic purposes. So far, says Prof. Philip E. Browning, there has been no production of selenium in the United States outside of small quantities found in the residues from refining copper by electrolytic methods.

Eleven years ago an Italian engineer made a boat of artificial stone or cement, which excited much interest. It was an excellent boat, and is yet in use. The framework, of light iron rods, was covered with a metallic trellis, and then coats of cement were applied, inside and out, to form the hull. It proved surprisingly resistant to shocks. Since then the same engineer, Jabellini, has made many more "stone" boats, of various forms, and among them a barge, about 54 feet long and between 17 and 18 feet broad, which for several years has been employed for carrying coal in the harbor of Genoa. He also makes pontoons of the same materia', which have been used to replace wooden pontoons on the Po. The material lasts better even than iron, and is not attacked by salt water.

The latest report of the Geological Survey on the mineral products of the United States shows that the total annual value of these products increased from $305,482,183 in 1898 to $903,024,005 in 1907. In 1906 the value was $886,110,856. In 1904 it was $502,149,624, having gradually fallen from $599,916,009 in 1902. Since 1904 each year has shown an increase, that for 1905 being the largest, when the total jumped up a little more than $200,000,000 from the preceding year. The non-metallic products have regularly risen in value from $417,790,6671 in 1898 to $1,166,165,191 in 1907. In 1880 the total value of the metallic products was only $185,664,163, and that of the non-metallic products $173,279,135. The value of the non-metallic products surpassed that of the metallic products in 1881, and has kept the lead since, passing the billion mark in 1906.

LADS OF AYRSHIRE, SCOTLAND.

Scotch Boys Reminded a Traveler of American Youngsters.

The carrier's wagonette was approaching. The grand big horse, Mr. Hendry himself, a small, white-haired, apple-cheeked man, with a keen twinkling light in his eyes, and the load of women, babies and boys who filled every part of the vehicle, made a picture of rustic locomotion, and there was a fine display of courtesy when the boys jumped out to walk. The mothers crowded close together and the babies were allowed to sit on our knees. English country boys, though I like them well enough, do not particularly remind me of American boys; but Scotch boys, especially the barefoot village boys of Ayrshire, reminded me individually of this, that and the other companion of my youth. The eye which never loses sight of yours, the bare, free brow, the freckles, the plucky mouth, the engaging air of freedom and enterprise and humor, in more than one Ayrshire face, brought up the image of a little group of schoolmates, now scattered from Pennsylvania to New Mexico.

The Scotch boys whom I've met on roads and hillsides have always been about some business of their own, and very much interested in its outcome—evidently had something on their minds, some adventure in hand. They were hurrying to some rendezvous or wearily returning with jars and cans full of tadpoles or with strings of fish or combs of wild honey.—Scribner's Magazine.

Apple Superstitions.

In Scotland one of the Hallowe'en customs used to be "eating an apple at the glass." That was to stand before a looking-glass and eat an apple with one hand and with the other comb the hair, when the face of one's future husband would be seen in the glass looking over the left shoulder. In the South of England an apple charm was for each person present to fasten an apple on to a string, after which the strings were hung and twirled before the fire. The owner of the apple which first falls off is declared to be married. As each one's apple falls off, so does the order of matrimony proceed. Single bliss is the lot of the owner of the last apple left on the string.

Where Her Sympathies Lie.

"I'm so sorry for Mr. Brown. He's suffering from a severe attack of the grip."

"I'm not half so sorry for Brown as I am for Mrs. Brown," replied the neighbor, who knew what it meant to have a sick man in the house.—Detroit Free Press.

The average country woman is always as disgusted with the showing [illegible] as the men are.

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Try a 10-pound sack of our Whole Wheat Flour, or a large or small sack of Rye.

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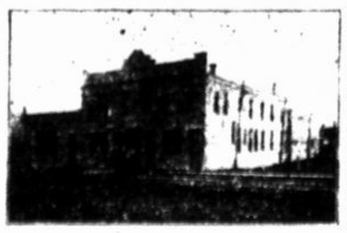

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Monsieur Claude, chief of the Paris police, was ordered on one occasion to arrest an escaped prisoner who had defrauded the government. At the time Paris was wild over the songs of Pierre Jean de Beranger, which were heard everywhere, though the poet himself was little known. In his hunt after the convict, Claude entered the famous Closerie des Lilas, where he found his man surrounded by a swarm of pretty girls, the bewitching danseuses of the Latin quarter. The escaped prisoner saw him and turned pale. Quick as lightning, however, he put his lips to the ear of the girl nearest to him and whispered: "It is Beranger." In a moment all the beauties surrounded Claude, hemming him in. They bowed to him and embraced him and threw bouquets of flowers over him. The music stopped and the dancers joined the throng and with one voice cried, "Vive Beranger! Vive Beranger!" The delight at finding their song-writing hero in their midst intoxicated them, and poor Claude was powerless. He was so embarrassed by their embraces, and the flowers and compliments showered on him, that he could neither move nor speak, and the convict managed to escape before the clever trick was discovered.

The great crops provide an immense business for the railroads. The prices of them give the farmers money to pay their mortgages with, to deposit in the banks—where it is loaned to the younger set of farmers who are just getting a start—and to buy pretty much every sort of merchandise with. Every line of business feels the effect of the purchases made by 6,000,000 or 8,000,000 farmers, and the crops of 1906 assure the country of one more good year.

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