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# AGRICULTURAL



## A Farmer's Enterprise.

An Iowa farmer has succeeded in opening up a big field for his enterprise by applying an old method to a new service. He has gone into the business of furnishing fresh eggs daily to a regular list of customers, after the fashion of the milkmen and bakers. This farmer is a man who raises many chickens and markets a large number of eggs. These he had been selling to dealers, who in turn sent them to cold-storage warehouses or to wholesalers. Finally they got to the consumers, usually pretty stale and much the worse for handling, through the retail grocer or butcher. When eggs were plentiful and the wholesalers were well stocked up, the farmer got little for them. When eggs were few and prices to consumers were very high, the farmer found that his eggs in the warehouses were still in competition with the producer. This man's egg route isn't an egg route exclusively. He sells dressed chickens and other farm produce, too, and when his egg wagon is going about the dryer takes orders for other things which are raised on the farm.—Springfield Journal.

## Starting Early Celery.

Celery growing on a commercial scale has received most attention in the "muck-bed" areas of Michigan and New York, where thousands of acres are devoted to this crop. California and Florida have taken up the industry and during the winter and spring months provide Northern cities with large amounts of celery. To secure an early crop the best plan for the amateur grower is to fill a wooden tray 16 inches by 24 inches in size with fine soil three inches deep. This soil should be pressed down and the seeds scattered either in rows or broadcast. Cover the seeds by sprinkling through a fine sieve a small quantity of leaf mold or sand. The window of a moderately warm room with frequent sprinkling will provide the conditions necessary for germination. Within the seedlings appear after two or three weeks turn the boxes daily to keep the growth even. The illustration shows the form of box used for starting the plants.

## How to Grow Potatoes.

Director Woods of the Maine agricultural experiment station summarizes his suggestions as to successful potato growing as follows. What he says about thorough preparation of the soil is applicable to that to be used for any crop. Select highly fertile land, so situated that it will suffer as little as possible from either excessive rain or from droughts. Thoroughly prepare the soil and fertilize liberally. Spray for insects and blight, early and often. Keep the crop free from weeds and the surface of the soil loose during the whole season. Do not let anything prevent the potato field from receiving constant care. Vastly more failures in potato growing can be traced to neglect of crop than to lack of knowledge.

## Tremendous Cost of Prairie Dogs.

In the state of Texas alone prairie dogs eat annually enough grass to support 1,502,500 cows. Utterly useless, the little animal is a pest so dreaded that the forestry service has undertaken his extermination. Poison is killing him, wherever he now flourishes and another resource of the farmer is fast fading. Who would think that the prairie dog, the shy and amusing little rodent that we like to watch before the door of his burrow at the Zoo, would ever become the subject of the government's intervention or endanger the success of stock raising? Yet such is the fact, says the Technical World Magazine. Out on the national forests which Uncle Sam is guarding for the use of the public, expert hunters have gone after the prairie dog with zeal, ingenuity and poison and literally exterminated them in great numbers, because some of their choicest bottom lands have had the grazing ruined for stock by the industrious burrowing of the "dogs."

## Cost of Raising a Calf.

In an experiment to ascertain the cost of raising a calf Prof. Shaw of Michigan station took a dairy calf and kept an accurate account of the expense of feeding for one year from its birth. The amounts of feeds used in that time were 281 pounds of whole milk, 2,568 pounds of skim milk, 1,282 pounds of silage, 219 pounds of beet pulp, 1,284 pounds of hay, 1,247 pounds of grain, 147 pounds of roots, 14 pounds of alfalfa meal and 50 pounds of green corn. The grain ration consisted of three parts each of corn and oats and one part of bran and oilmeal. At the end of the year the calf weighed 900 pounds at a cost of \$28.55 for feed. The calf was a Holstein.

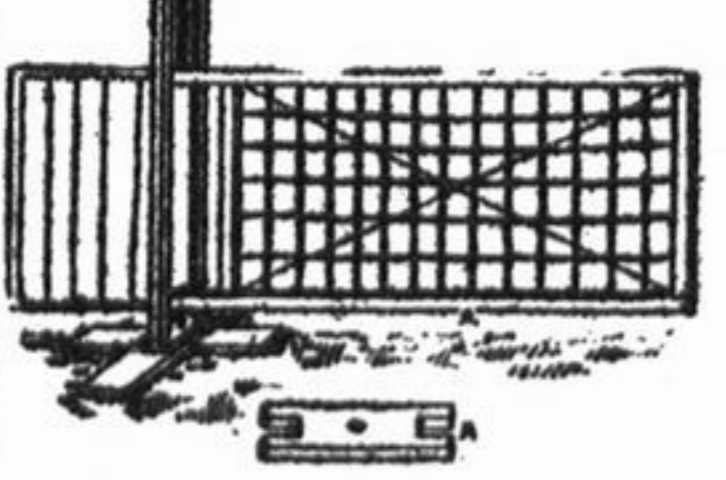
## Feed for Poultry.

The effect of meat ration was tested at the West Virginia Experiment Station, where one pen of fowls received a ration largely of corn and other starchy grains, while another pen was

fed partly on meat and fresh bone. The meat fed fowls laid 7,565 eggs, while the grain fed birds laid 3,431, or less than one-half as many as those receiving the nitrogenous rations. The eggs from the meat fed fowls were larger, much firmer, rather better and produced far more vigorous chickens than those of the others.

## A Gate That Never Sags.

I have used this gate for many years and never spent five minutes repairing it. Counterank two pieces and pin them together. Then set up two 2x4 pieces 2 ft. higher than the gate so it can be raised in winter. Mortice and set in between the crosspieces, which are 12 in. apart, the board, a, and fasten a cap to the top of the frame. The gate is 16 ft. long, 12 ft. being for the gateway and 4 ft. for the weights to balance it. The frame is of 2x4's. Cover the 4-ft. end with boards and fill with enough stones to balance it when



WIRE-COVERED GATE THAT BALANCES.

hung. Cover the gate with wire fencing and hang by a chain. Put a bolt through the lower part of the frame into the crosspiece, a.—A. J. Fraser, in Farm and Home.

## Orchard Suggestions.

As a rule apples from orchards that are in soil culture are better and more highly colored than those from tilled orchards, but this is not necessarily so. The trees that are tilled must be pruned more openly and fertilized with super phosphate and phosphoric acid and less nitrogen. The peach requires good culture, but this culture should not be continued too long in the season or the wood will not harden by the time winter sets in and the tree will be injured. It is an excellent plan to sow a cover crop at the time the last cultivation takes place. The fruit grower is apt to make two mistakes in planting trees. One is planting too many varieties, and the other is planting too many trees. It is more a matter of quality than of quantity in growing fruit and we should not plant more trees than we can care for.

## Oregon Apples and King Edward.

What are considered the finest apples ever grown in the United States or any other country passed through Boston recently on their way to the table of King Edward of England. They are known as winter banana apples, and are two and a half times the size of the ordinary apple to which one is accustomed. These apples are grown at the Beulah land orchards, Hood River, Ore., by Oscar Vanderbilt, an expert orchardist, and they are considered the highest development in the cultivation of this fruit. Their color is perfect, the rosy bluish blends with the green in the most beautiful manner imaginable. In flavor and texture they are as good as they look.

## Rules for Successful Farming.

To my mind the ideal system of management to maintain our income from our farms with reduced labor and capital must come about in the following manner: More economical production in all lines and reducing the amount of labor by growing much clover and grasses. Keeping live stock to harvest these crops and selling only finished products. Turning the less profitable land into pasture and grasses and working the best land more intensively. Growing cash or market crops that give high returns for the labor employed and fertilizer used, such as potatoes, fruit, etc.—B. Lora, Wisconsin.

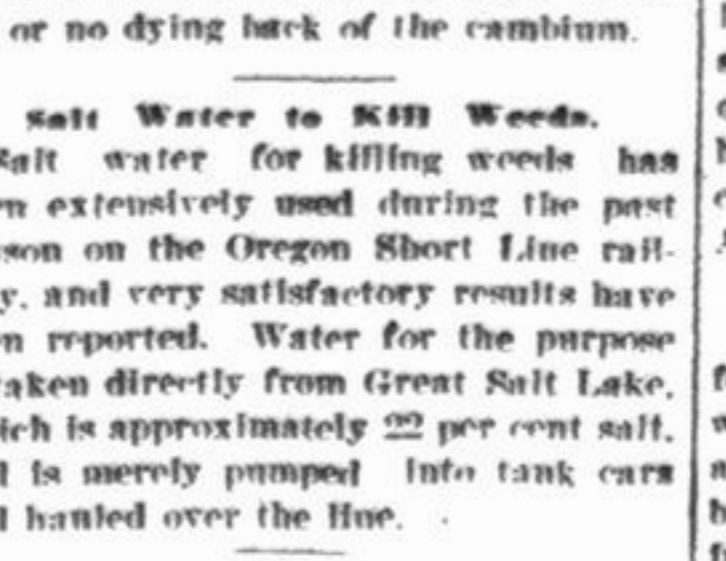
## When and How to Prune.

It is very important that the healing process should start soon after the wound is made, otherwise the cambium will be killed back quite a distance from the exposed surface, and healing will be greatly retarded. For this reason winter pruning should be avoided, particularly in frosty weather. In the early fall or late spring the cambium is active and wounds made at this time start to heal at once, and there is little or no dying back of the cambium.

## Salt Water to Kill Weeds.

Salt water for killing weeds has been extensively used during the past season on the Oregon Short Line railway, and very satisfactory results have been reported. Water for the purpose is taken directly from Great Salt Lake, which is approximately 22 per cent salt, and is merely pumped into tank cars and hauled over the line.

## A Useful Farm Implement.



A useful but much neglected farm implement—the shoring horse.

## To Reclaim State Lands.

That all the homestead lands in Michigan have been withdrawn from the market is announced by State Land Commissioner Huntley Russell. The lands will be kept out until they have been reappraised, as provided by a resolution recently introduced in the lower house of the state legislature.

## PIGEON-FLYING IN INDIA.

A Sport Which is the Height of Life on the House Tops.

We of the west, with our freedom and opportunities for sport allied and affixed, comprehend but dimly how much of the social life of the far east is spent in the house tops. This is especially characteristic of the people of India. There the roof is indispensable owing to the veiled life of the women, and since for these hapless creatures an outing under the rigid conditions of propriety is a rare event, and an occasion of too much pomp and ceremony to be really enjoyable, they take the air on the roof.

The roofs of their mud houses are built flat, without tilting and surrounded by a parapet of reasonable height, which is screened by pots of flowers or by creeping plants (invariably jasmine, trained around a slight wooden trellis. This is the place of recreation for the younger children and the women folk of the household. Moreover the men and youths of each family are accustomed to spend quite as much of their time up there as the women, but never should a man from another family intrude upon the presence of the women.

From this custom have developed two interesting sports, both of which are characteristic of the peculiar detached life of the caste-ridden people. These are pigeon-flying and kite-flying, which are indulged in by grown-ups as well as by children, and which have in the course of centuries gathered unto themselves much of the dignity of a science. It is quite a common sight in the larger cities and towns to see the clear cloudless skies full of pigeons wheeling in flocks, or of gaudily painted kites soaring at the invisible end of colored thread.

Pigeon-flying is not without its element of hazard and excitement and is a form of public gaming. The wealthier men often keep large flocks of valuable birds on the roofs of their houses, with a professional "flyer" to care for them. They breed pedigreed birds of great value and around the leg of each is the owner's private mark on a brass ring that jingles at each step of the bird. These flocks are numerous, as there are quite a large number of pigeon fanciers in each city.

## SHORT METER SERMONS.

### Earning the Crown.

Only he who is willing to bear the cross is worthy to wear the crown.—Rev. Geo. A. Hawker, Episcopalian, Omaha.

### Need of the Day.

The greatest need of the day is the largest hospitality toward Jesus Christ.—Bishop E. H. Hughes, Methodist Episcopalian, San Francisco.

### Preparance to Sin.

Mortal man has a propensity to brook sin and sin, albeit that he is a child of God.—Dr. J. G. Scourman, Congregationalist, Ithaca, N. Y.

### Esperance.

One of the principal elements of faith that makes for health as well as character is the mood of expectancy.—Rev. P. P. Womer, Congregationalist, Minneapolis.

### Highest Goals.

We cannot afford to think wrong thoughts or to do wrong deeds. Let our highest ideals be, in the Godlike and Christlike.—Rev. C. C. Buckner, Disciple, Aurora.

### The World's Orchestra.

Every instrument of civilization is being attuned to heaven's keynote of brotherly love and gradually forming a grand world orchestra.—Rev. W. M. Taylor, Christian, New Orleans.

### Church and State.

The church must govern the state. No church may govern the state. And any church that proposes to be sovereign over our republic is a foe to American liberty.—Rev. Dr. Bergen, Presbyterian, Dubuque.

### Over All.

We are just recovering from an overdose of evolution and immensity. God is not simply in all and through all, but also and especially, so far as man's consciousness is concerned, over all.—Rev. C. H. Beale, Congregationalist, Milwaukee.

### Superstition.

The human race is only slowly emerging from animism. And one of the relics of its animism which clings to the race is its superstition. Religion now, an ever, is very largely superstition.—Rev. Wm. T. Brown, Unitarian, Salt Lake City.

### Social Reform.

The church as organized religion, if she is to be faithful to her exalted mission, must continually reinforce the ranks of social reformers; religion must supply the motive power for social reform.—Rev. W. M. Brundage, Unitarian Church, Brooklyn.

### Quality, Not Quantity.

I recognize the pressure of modern life and the limitation on our time and strength, but it is quality and not quantity that counts, not how much, but how genuine, is the test of the church's service and power.—Rev. F. A. Hanley, Baptist, Providence.

### Ridicule's Awe.

I want to say a word about the effect of ridicule upon many men and women. Ridicule has killed more men and women than poison. Many a man bent upon reform and a true upholding of character has been swayed by a sneer or by laughter when just a little pressure of a helping hand would have saved him.—Rev. A. P. Wedge, Baptist, Lowell, Mass.

### The Bedouin's Bed.

An interesting patient at the medical mission at Haifa, Palestine, is alluded to in the annual report of the S. P. C. K. Dr. Coles writes: "During the year we have had many patients from very desolate parts of Asia. One was a Bedouin who had never been inside of a house with windows and had never seen a bedstead. He wanted to sleep under the bed, fearing to fall off if he tried to sleep in it, saying: 'I can't stay awake all night holding on to this bank. Besides it will not keep still!' It was a spring mattress."

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