AGRICULTURAL.

Ensilage For Hogs.

Mr. A.B. Barrett, writing from the new England States standpoint says:

We have discovered the best summer food for growing hogs namely, good clover and grass. On this they thrive and increase in size and weight, and are rarely attacked by disease. Another great feature of the food is that it is the cheapest that we can grow for them.

But when we come to the winter months we are still unsettled, or at least, many are, so far as adopting any new feed from that used a hundred years ago is concerned. Many hogs must be wintered for breeding purposes if for nothing else. Too much fattening and heating food is not only bad for them, but for their litters when they come later. A sow that has been fed heavily upon corn right up to the farrowing time, will show an unruly and unstable temper, and very often a cannibalistic desire. She will, on slight provocation, kill her young and devour them. This is due largely to stomach trouble, and to the irritation of the whole system. Heavy feeding of corn to the sow has about the same effect as warm flesh does upon wild beasts.

Ensilage made from sweet corn supplies a winter food that is the cheapest grown, and it gives the best results in feeding the breeding sows in winter. Hard field corn is not so good. It is not relished as the sweet corn. The swine will walk all over the former to get at the latter, and if this is harvested at the right time they will eat up everything—stalks, corn and tops. There is nothing wasted.

Even when this corn is cut late in the season and run through the cutter during the fall, the swine will eat it with great relish. As a fall and early winter food the sweet corn stalks, with the ears left on them make unequaled fodder for the animals. If it is not grown for the silo sufficient should be raised to feed the pigs until late in the autumn, when the clover and grass have died, and there is nothing but grain to fall back upon. Pigs that have been fed on clover and grass through summer can be fattened for the slaughtering-house on the sweet corn fed to them just as it comes from the field. It is better to run the whole mess through the cutter, stalks and mature ears included.

When raised for winter fodder the corn should be cut the same as any other for the silo, and it must be gathered and preserved in the best way possible. The sugar-corn gives sweetness to the whole mess, and makes the odor of the silo very pleasant to smell. To get a good stand of the best sugar-corn means a good supply of winter food for store hogs.

Preparations should be made for this feed if hogs are to be kept over next winter, and by devoting a few acres to the sugar corn for the silo, enough will be saved in grain and shelled corn to add very materially to the profits. The silo is generally used by dairymen nowadays, but swine breeders have not given it a fair trial and test.

Use of Barbed Wire Fence.

Barbed wire fence is steadily gaining favor on its merits of strength, durability, effectiveness, and low cost. The galvanized wire lasts many years, and only half as many posts need be used as with other kinds of fences. When the ground is so wet that other farm work cannot be done, is a proper time to build barbed wire fences. At such time the ground is generally moist, and soft enough to admit of driving the sharpened posts from the wagon, thus avoiding the expensive labor of digging and filling holes. To fence securely against sheep, five smooth wires and one top barbed wire are needed. Six barbed wires make a good hog fence, but will not prove absolutely reliable as regards very little pigs. For cattle and horses, three barbed wires answer fairly well, but it will be more satisfactory if four strands are used.

Sell the Hard Keepers.

Some strains of every breed of domestic animals are what is termed hard keepers. These should be disposed of at the first opportunity, and others that more readily respond to proper care obtained. Let improvement be the watchword in the stock line as well as in obtaining the latest and most successful implements when they are required. It is only by this discriminating care that one will be able to maintain a profit in this age of low prices and close competition in all lines of farming.

Short Furrows.

It is an easy thing for a lazy man to overwork himself.

A shady fence corner is an irresistible temptation to some men.

I never thought that a man could ride heavenward on a sorebacked horse.

The greatest friend to the butterine producer is the farmer who sells poor butter.

If every man were to get rich who believes he knows how, we would have no paupers.

I never enjoy a man's theories about the government who cannot manage a ten-acre patch.

The worm in the whisky distillery will do more damage to the farmer this summer than the cutworm.

It seems to be a much easier thing to set down and formulate a system of national finance than it is to go to work and earn an honest dollar. Honest dollars are made only by hard work.

Sowing Clover Seed.

Upon farming land that is cultivated by crop rotation, clover should be sown if it is practicable to do so. For enriching the soil red clover is no doubt one or the best leguminous plants, as it grows rank and sends its roots down deep into the soil. However, where a permanent pasture or meadow is desired, timothy should be sown with clover at the rate of four quarts of timothy to five or six quarts of clover. The first year the clover will be prominent, the next year less clover, and the third season wholly timothy. For the benefit to the soil the next season after seeding, wholly with clover, if of the medium red variety, it should be cut in June or early in July for hay, and later for seed. This double cropping sends the roots deeper in the soil which is just what is wanted, and is found to be more beneficial than simple close pasturing. Alsike does well, makes good hay but does not enrich the soil like red clover. Altalfa will be the best for dry climates.

FINEST PARKS IN THE WORLD.

Every City, Town and Village in Australia Has Beautiful Pleasure Grounds.

In no country in the world do people pay so much attention to their city and country parks as do the Australians. As none of the large cities is ever visited by frost or snow all have great advantages over the cities of our northern states or of northern Europe. Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, has a park with botanical gardens which for beauty of situation, arrangement of grounds and variety of trees and plants is unequalled by any city in the world, unless it might be by those of Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane in the same country. These Australian parks are not simply ornamental, they are useful; the people use them, and, as they are free to all, their one objectional feature is the fact that they are made the resort of tramps, and of other disreputable characters. One of the largest of these city parks, and it promises in time to be the most beautiful, is Centennial Park, of Sydney, New South Wales. This park was purchased and surveyed four years ago, to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Sydney which at the beginning, was a penal colony of England. The municipality has gone to great expense to adorn the park with scores of replicas of famous statues or the statues of famous men from all parts of the world. The Australians have not only the parks in their large cities, but every town and village has its pleasure grounds, and the race track is to be found in every settlement. The colonies also have large areas set apart as national parks. The wisdom of this course will become evident as the population increases and land becomes more valuable.

SENSATIONS OF DROWNING.

The Experience of Drowning Described by a Man Who Had a Narrow Escape.

Mr. Hartley, twenty years of age, has recently given his experiences in drowning. Bathing with some comrades in the Ohio, he stayed too long under water, and before he could reach the surface, felt a shock like a blow on his back, which was caused by a friend diving to his rescue. This drove all the air out of his lungs, and he went to the bottom, where he lay in a half-conscious state, seeing his parents and friends around him weeping. All the events of his life passed slowly before his sight, including his good, bad, and indifferent actions. He recalled with absolute distinctness the smallest facts of his life, even when he was a child at school. He knew quite well that he was drowning, and thought, "After all it is not so bad to drown." He asked himself whether they would be able to find his body, and shuddered at the thought of their failure. Then he pictured his burial and heard the clods falling on his coffin, and thought that mothers would speak of his death as a warning to their children. He heard sounds as of distant bells in his ears; saw pictures of all the colours of the rainbow, which enchanted him; and felt neither pain nor fear. Everything around him became peaceful, noises died away, and it was neither too hot nor cold. Then he felt himself rise above the earth and float in space higher and higher, and saw the world extended below him. From this moment he saw nothing more until he found himself lying on the grass beside the friend who had saved him and brought him to life by means of artificial respiration and friction.

Enter the Ambassador.

One of the most interesting incidents that marked the ceremonies in the Senate the other day was occasioned by the arriva of Sir Julian Pauncefote, says the Washington Post. The President, members of th Supreme Court and all other visitors entitled to the floor had taken their seats, and the short wait preceding the opening of the services had begun to grow irksome when the main door opened and Sir Julian, dressed in a close-fitting Prince Albert entered. He took a few steps forward and then paused while the master of ceremonies announced in a distinct voice. "The Ambassador of England to the United States." The pause was momentary. The President and everyone present arose instantaneously in their seats. The English diplomat bowed with the easy grace of a man who is not embarrassed by the honors shown him, with a firm step and erect though respectful bearing, passed down the centre aisle, past the President and Cabinet, to the seat assigned him in the front line of chairs. It was an unexpected incident, which, for the grace with which the required courtesy was demonstrated on both sides, made it of more than passing interest to all who observed it.

When Victoria Travels.

When the Queen travels the locomotive superintendent selects the engine. He places on it his most experienced driver. A pilot engine, with a firm, cautious man, well acquainted with the road, precedes the royal train. On her journey by the west coast route no fewer than 300 telegrams are sent from point to point to herald her approach. No train is allowed to cross the main line for half an hour before the time fixed for the Queen to pass; the gates at the level crossings are locked, shunting operations are suspended, and an army of platelayers are on duty—on the alert to remove any obstruction from the line. Her Majesty declines to permit a faster pace than thirty-six miles an hour.

THE HOME.

A Word to the Unwise.

The annual "outing" which falls to the lot of people in moderate circumstances frequently proves a delusion which only bitter experience can dispel. Indulgence in a custom that disarranges domestic machinery and threatens to jeopardize the health of every individual member of the family, falls far short of yielding even a modicum of the rest and enjoyment that are such important factors in the restoration of mental and physical strength.

The wholesale exodus from comfortable homes at a period when modern conviences prove invaluable is inexcusable on the part of those who have experienced the discomforts of a second or third-rate boarding-house. An outing of this sort weakens vitality and renders an individual upon his return unfit to cope with the penetrating dampness and riotous winds that herald the approach of winter.

Another evil which is likely to follow desertion of the home-nest is that which assails husband and father whose business interests compel him to remain in the city during the week. A house that is closed all day is not a desirable place in which to seek nature's sweet restorer. Yet the head of the family breathes the close, vitiated atmosphere night after night and stubbornly declares that the "beastly weather" is accountable for the headache and nausea that clings to him like an avenging spirit.

Many a tired, worn-out mother has been forced to admit, after a season's "outing" that the home nest is the proper place for the little ones and herself. In her own home a mother can arrange to have each member of the family enjoy a daily bath, which is so refreshing and also frequently proves the means of warding off diseases.

As the season advances the "slaughter of innocents" goes on apace. Every woman, particularly a mother, should be able to act quickly and intelligently in a case of emergency. Prompt action on the part of parent or nurse may turn the scale at the last moment and save the life of a loved one.

Immersion in warm water and a spice poultice applied to the stomach and extending well up under the arm-pits will give instant relief in the first stages of cholera infantum. Nursing bottles, when not in use, should be filled with water containing powdered charcoal. The scum that is so frequently allowed to remain upon the inside of the bottle is rank poison. Pulverized egg-shell will also remove incrusted particles. If a babe's stomach shows the slightest sign of weakness discontinue the milk diet at once and substitute rice and barley water. The white of egg mixed with cold water affords nourishment when the stomach refuses to retain any other liquid.

Sleeping rooms and nursery may be kept cool during the day by lowering the upper sash and allowing the shade to hang outside of the window. Glass is a radiator and when exposed to the scorching rays of the sun fills every nook and corner with close, stifling atmosphere, which proves extremely detrimental to the health of young children.

It is a very easy matter to keep constantly adding to the "ounce of prevention" that helps to banish sickness from the household. If an evil in the form of noxious odor gains foothold in the cellar, strew lime and copperas along the floor near the wall, as germs of disease that find lodgment in the cellar speedily force their way into the upper apartments. The fumes that arise from vinegar dropped upon a hot iron shovel will destroy the floating germs and render the atmosphere fresh and pure.

The cold air that is supposed to pervade refrigerators and ice chests leads many housekeepers to imagine that the daily cleansing of these receptacles is quite unnecessary. The average piece of ice has, as all know a provoking tendency to assume infinitesimal proportions at the most unexpected moments. The bad air that is held in check by the cold atmosphere becomes active when the temperature changes consequently food is speedily rendered unfit for use. A large piece of charcoal should be kept in every chest and refrigerator to purify the air. If a stout cloth is wrapped around the ice the melting process will receive a check favorable to the preservation of the crystal block.

It is often necessary to keep a supply of ice water during the night. The inconvenience of replenishing at intervals may be entirely obviated by wrapping the pitcher in a newspaper and twisting the ends together to exclude the air. All who try this method will be surprised to find that the melting process has been almost completely arrested.

The individual of moderate means who rushes hither and thither seeking a spot where "perpetual breezes blow" will never solve the problem—how to keep cool, until experience furnishes the key. Those who from necessity or inclination remain quietly at home during the heated term may be comforted to know that there are sure to be many cool days during the summer, when a day spent in the country or at the seashore will be thoroughly enjoyed. The pleasures of the outing will be greatly enhanced by the knowledge that home comforts await the weary ones when they return from their jaunt; and as each member of the family emerges from the cool, refreshing bath, we are not surprised that their hearts are filled with pity for people whose mistaken idea concerning a "summer outing" sends them wandering far away from the "dearest spot on earth."

Furnishing and Decorating.

If it were possible to guide people into simple habits and ideas as regards so-called comforts we should not only be more likely to develop nobler art, but also to secure less care and trouble in the keeping of the useless "gimcrockery' with which modern homes abound. As a rule, rooms are too much furnished. Were the constructive features of a room properly looked after, much furniture and upholstery would be as needless as it is troublesome to keep in order and move about.

An important point in house-furnishing, which is often forgotten, is the question of dust. Dwellers in towns are particularly subject to this all-prevailing evil. In view of the fact that houses are more or less vibratory, we would urge the selection of only such furniture as may be easily moved about. Avoid useless side-tables and cabinets, which are so often dragged in for no other purpose in the world but to carry "art" rubbish. Remember that all furniture beyond what is really necessary for comfort and convenience only provides so many more traps wherewith to catch the dust. Avoid all woolen or fluffy material in such upholstery as it may be deemed necessary to have. These simple hints can be acted upon by everybody. To those whose means admit of it we would suggest the use of thin parquet over old floors. Upon such a floor only one or two rugs, in lieu of the usual carpet would be needed.

RAILROADS IN AMERICA.

Their Total Capital, Debts, Stocks, Bonds, and Dividends.

In a speech delivered in the United States Senate a few days ago, Senator Call of Florida drew attention to the fact that not less than five million men, women, and children were dependent for their livelihood upon continued employment in the service of railroad corporations of the United States. No European Government, however depotic, he declared, had control of an army of one million men, the total number of railroad employees being put by the Florida Senator at one million.

Railroad investments, it is popularly supposed, yield a very large return, but the fact is that taking the country through and adopting the figures of an ordinary year, it is found that money invested in railroads does not yield a sum so great as to inspire the cupidity of an investor seeking very large returns. The total fund of debt of all American railroads in the year 1892 amounted to $5,463,000,000. Four and one-half per cent. on this figure of gross bonded indebtedness would amount to $245,000,000, whereas these railroads paid collectively in that year $232,000,000, on their bonded indebtedness, or an average of 4¼ per cent. taking a favorable year for such comparisons, and not one like the past year, during which by default upon bonded interest so many American railways have been thrown into receivers' hands.

During the year 1893 seventy-five American railroads, operating 25,000 miles and having a gross bonded indebtedness of $1,212,000,000, went into receivers' hands and have defaulted on their principal payments, so that this year's net returns from railroads to bondholders will fall short of 4½ per cent, and will not attain a higher average than 3½. It is also to be remembered that those bonds which regularly pay interest as it accrues sell at a premium beyond the nominal value, a thoroughly guaranteed "gilt-edged" four per cent. bond selling at a premium of 25 per cent.

The gross amount of capital stock of all American railroads has more than doubled during the past twelve years and now amounts to $5,000,000,000. The total dividends paid on the capital stock of American railroads in 1891 amounted to $90,000,000 and in 1892 to $83,000,000. Two per cent. on the total capitalization would be 100,000,000, and it is therefore evident that the holders of stock in American railways receive even in favorable years little more than one and two-thirds of one per cent. interest on their holdings. The field for investment is better in American than in English railway companies, the established rate of interest on bonds being higher and the fluctuation in railroad stocks being greater.

The railroads of Florida sustained, most of them, by Northern capital have a mileage of 2,500 miles. Compared with the population of the State they are more extensive than the railroads of any other Southern Commonwealth, being in the proportion of sixty-three miles of line to 10,000 inhabitants, whereas Georgia has twenty-five, Alabama twenty-two, South Carolina twenty, Tennessee sixteen; Virginia twenty-one, Kentucky fifteen, and North Carolina twenty. The Florida railways have 1½ per cent. of the total mileage of the United States.

Reading to the Blind Gladstone.

I hear a very touching account of the way in which Mr. Gladstone passes the greater part of his day. He will not be allowed to read or use his eyes for another month, and he has to sit all day with his eyes closed and with dark spectacles. Meanwhile he is read to by relays of friends who take each other's place and give Mr. Gladstone some remarkably varied samples of reading. One day, for instance, a lady friend read to the ex-premier a novel, and she was followed by Mr. George Russel the Under Secretary for the Home Office. Mr. Russell asked Mr. Gladstone what he preferred. The ex-Premier replied, "Read me the second Aeneid" Mr. Russell read 600 lines, the old man stopping him now and then for comment, or to ask the reader to pause while he himself took up the recitation with some remembered lines. It is a pathetic reminiscence, for the second Aeneid has always been a great favorite with Mr. Gladstone, and he used it copiously in the far away historic encounters with Mr. Disraeli.

Grades of Gold.

Twenty-four carat gold is all gold; 22 carat gold has twenty-two parts of gold, one of silver, and one of copper; 18 carat gold has eighteen parts of pure gold and three parts each of silver and copper in its composition; 12 carat gold is half gold, the remainder being made up of three and a half parts of silver and eight and a half parts of copper.

Deeply Interested.

Bachelor Brother—"What are you women working at now?

Mrs. Finemind—"We are organizing an Anti-Baby-Kissing Society."

Bachelor Brother—"Glorious! Let me join?"

WHAT UNCLE SAM IS AT.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE.

Neighborly Interest in His Doings—Matters of Moment and Mirth Gathered From His Daily Record.

A Philadelphian has invented a four-winged flying machine.

A steam plant for shearing sheep is reported to be in operation at Casper, Wy.

It is stated that there are more people of the emigrant class leaving than entering the United States.

By the explosion of a gasoline generator in a laundry at Portland, Oregon, six Chinamen were killed.

Frank McDade, 15 years old, died from the effects of excessive cigarette smoking at Amsterdam, N. Y.

The Erie Rubber Works in Erie, Pa., were seized by the sheriff on an execution of a judgment of $12,000.

Miss Mary L. Egberts, whose father was an officer in the revolutionary war, died in Albany at the age of 97 years.

Alexander McCurdy was taken from the Golden, Colo., jail and lynched after being subjected to horrible brutalities.

The gold product of California is likely to show an increase of $2,000,000 this year. Last year it was about $12,500,000.

Forty-eight grain elevators, the property of the Red River Valley Company, will be sold in the interest of the creditors.

New Jersey's supreme court has refused to examine Miss Mary Philbrooke, a woman law student, for admission to practice.

Five boys, inmates of a Catholic home in Tarrytown, N. Y., died from eating a poisonous root. Seven others are seriously ill.

The Supreme Lodge of the A.O.U.W., which has concluded its session at San Francisco, will meet at Atlanta, Ga., next year.

It is said that the oldest inhabited house in the United States is that of Kiliaen van Rensselaer, opposite Albany. It was built in 1642.

Nearly all the fruit canners of California have organized a trust, to be incorporated under the name of the California Cannery Company.

There are 6,600 saloons in Chicago whose annual income is about $12,000,000, and of this $8,000,000 represents the profits of the saloonkeepers.

A 42-pound tandem is being constructed at Syracuse, for Mr. and Mrs. William Van Wagoner, of Syracuse, who have planned a 1,000 mile trip.

The accounts of W. S. Simsiott, ex-secretary and treasurer of the Switchman's Mutual Aid Association, have been found to be short $25,000.

Vapor and gas stove men have decided to pool their interests and will form a corporation under the laws of Illinois, with a capital of $8,500,000.

Buffalo has 40,000 Poles, living chiefly in a quarter of their own, where English is little spoken, and many business signs are in Polish or Russian.

Charles B. McClay, bookkeeper and collection clerk of the Second National Bank of Bay City, Mich., is a defaulter and has left for parts unknown.

Western Union telegraph operators have organized and came within seven votes of the necessary two-thirds on the question of declaring a strike last week.

In a law office at Tipton, Ind., Perry Cox shot and fatally wounded William Goodnight, who had made statements reflecting on the character of Cox's daughter.

William M. Chase, N. A., the president of the Society of American Artists, is one of the best pistol shots in the world. He can split a playing card at thirty yards.

A census just taken shows that there are 100,000 bicycle riders in Chicago. In the neighborhood of every large office building there is a stable for the silent steeds.

A St. Paul newspaper man charges that 11,000 votes were bought and paid for at the recent municipal elections and explains the process by which the secret ballot law was evaded.

The relatives of Mrs. Kungunda Kugler, of New York, propose to contest her will because she cut them all off with $1 each and left $300 in trust for the care of her skye terrier.

Charles Switzer, of Albion, N. Y., had a quarrel with his son and the latter left home. The father was affected so seriously by the departure of the boy that he hanged himself.

One hundred years ago Benjamin Franklin bequeathed to the City of Boston $5,000 to accumulate in the hands of trustees for a century. The available balance to-day is $330,000.

Patrick Sullivan, of Sheboygan, Mich., who was recently knighted by the King of Sweden for his book upon turnips as a universal article of food, has constructed a bicycle made of cornhusk pulp.

Harland Page Halsey, better known as "Old Sleuth," the writer of hair-raising descriptive stories, is an active member of the Brooklyn Board of Education. His income from his novels is about $20,000 a year.

The Union Theological Seminary, of New York has changed its constitution so as to give the Board of Directors power to employ others than ordained ministers as members of the faculty.

The jury which has been trying Attorney-General Ellis of Michigan on the charge of altering the election returns on a constitutional amendment increasing his own salary has disagreed.

Oliver Ames, jr., of Boston, has built what is said to be the finest dog kennel in the United States. It cost $2,000, is thirty-five feet long, is lighted by ten windows, and the interior is finished in hardwood, polished and shellacked.

The latest scheme for providing the public with entertainment in New York is to have horse races by electric light at Brighton Beach where they can make the track as light as day and thoroughly visible throughout its entire length.

John Willis, a Washington criminal, has won the title of "The Wizard of the Cells" among the police officials of that city. He is said to be able to unlock the door of almost any cell in some mysterious manner without the use of instruments.