

THE FARM.

Farmers Boys and Their Prospects.

Lately I heard, with surprise given to an opinion entertained by a large number of our most intelligent people. The speaker said that "the prospects of the farmers' boys were daily growing less bright, and in the near future his labor would be narrowed down to a mere struggle for bread." "Look," he continued, "at the profits accumulated by the merchant, the lawyer, and other classes of men with whom the farmer is compelled to transact business. Absolutely the farmer has no chance of bettering his condition; but on the contrary, he must, by the very nature of things, naturally sink lower in the financial and social scale." This talk is merely wind—evil wind, evil in its tendency to degrade the noble pursuit of agriculture, and evil in its drift to turn the minds of our young men from agricultural occupations to the already overcrowded professional and mercantile channels. We can not call this talk anarchy, but it is extremely detrimental to the best interests of our laboring element. To my mind the prospects of farmers' boys were never so enticing as now. Years ago, comparatively few, a boy was expected to toil from before dawn till after dark, with only time to partake of his meals. Even then to ask for a horse would have been all his day was worth. Mind, I do not intend to say this was true in all cases, but a majority were so. Now it is different. Houses are made bright by the organ or other musical instrument. Good books and papers come into the house to aid in developing the intellectual faculties and cultivating the mind. Holidays are more plentiful, and machinery having succeeded hand labor on the farm to a large degree, the boy's life is rendered far easier.

One who can be willing to be content with a fair return for his labor is better situated to obtain a good living than ever before. True, produce is much lower in price, but provisions are reduced in a corresponding ratio. Transportation charges are hardly a tithe of the former cost of conveyance, and the modes of carrying together with the possibility of securing daily market reports have practically placed the markets at our very doors. Improved methods of farming have done a vast amount to advance the cause of agriculture. In raising any product for our markets it must be borne in mind that only first-class produce can command first-class prices. It will not do to put up butter in ill-looking packages, or to send your eggs unless perfectly fresh. Fruit and vegetables must be assorted and neatly packed, beef and pork must be fattened in a superior manner. Have a standard and keep all the produce up to that standard, and your prospects are as bright to-day as they would have been fifty years ago.

Practical Poultry.

Rice is excellent to feed to young, growing chickens, and is not very expensive.

Ducks, after commencing to lay, drop one egg very regularly every 24 hours, almost invariably after night.

If your young chickens appear droopy when about a week or ten days old, examine them carefully under the wings and on the head; you will soon find the cause—lice. Mix a little sulphur and lard together and apply to these points. One application is usually sufficient.

If your hens lay soft shelled eggs, give your fowls plenty of cinders, oyster shells, lime rubbish, etc.

This season of the year is a good one to set Bantam eggs. These hatched in September and even autumn are, however, often the best, as the lateness of the season tends to keep down the size.

Is the poultry business overdone? Does this, from a trades paper, indicate such a state of affairs? "About forty million dozen mere eggs are needed in America this year than are supplied by our fowls; so we will have to send across the water for the deficiency."

Always have a tight roof to your chicken coops; cold rains are very destructive to young chickens.

Keep young chickens growing steadily; do not feed them too much at a time, but feed them often, and with good, nourishing food.

Those using brooders should exercise great care about getting them too warm; the heated and relaxed chicken runs out into the cold air and gets inflammation of the lungs.

Clean out your chicken houses at least once a week.

Thinning Root Crops.

It may seem sometimes a hard thing to do to pull up promising plants and throw them away, and a farmer is thus tempted to permit the roots to stand too close in the rows. But it is indispensable to succeed that the plants have plenty of room. Large roots weighing ten to sixteen pounds cannot be grown at less than sixteen inches apart, and eighteen inches is better still. At this distance, with full rows, there will be forty-nine tons to the acre. At half the distance the roots may only average three pounds, making only little more than twenty-nine tons to the acre. The same applies to corn, for all plants need abundant feeding space for the roots, and must not be crowded much.

A Startling Discovery.

A startling and important discovery was made when, after long and patient experiment, the combination of Nerviline was reached. A grand victory, indeed, for the suffering have an ever ready, prompt, efficient, and cheap remedy at hand. Do you know that for 10 cents you can buy a trial bottle of Pelson's Nerviline and test its great power over pain of every description? Pelson's Nerviline cures chills, pain in the stomach, side, and back, rheumatism; in fact all pain. Sold by druggists and country dealers.

It is said the English Government is vainly seeking a place of confinement for its cranks. Italy has no difficulty that way. She attaches them to a hand organ and sends them to this country.

LATE DOMINION NEWS.

Halifax and St. John expect to have street railway systems shortly.

Gen. Sherman, of the American army, will visit Victoria, B. C., shortly.

Excellent milk is manufactured at Calgary. The color is a cream and the price \$13 a thousand.

A child was born on the Athabasca during a recent trip and was christened Herbert Athabasca.

From Glamorgan township a story comes that three wolves chased an old horse until it was tired and then ate it.

Two magnificent Rocky Mountain eagles, each measuring 17 feet from tip to tip, were exhibited at Port Arthur recently.

A Prince Edward Islander has a horse which has lost one of his eyes, and can breathe through the place occupied by the missing optic.

A baby carriage in Stratford was blown down a hill and dashed to pieces against a tree at the bottom. The baby escaped with a few scratches.

Mr. Van Horne, of the C.P.R., told a Calgary stockdealer that he would give orders for the immediate construction of stockyards in that town.

It is said that one result of the visit to the Maritime Provinces by Hon. Mr. Foster, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, will be an improvement in the system of lighting adopted along the coast.

A Jactville hen prides herself on the production of two big eggs, one measuring 8½ inches around lengthwise, and 7 inches across, the other 7½ by 6 inches, the aggregate weight being four ounces.

Mr. Wm. Sandham, of Middleton, was struck by lightning recently. It did not kill him, but broke his shoulder blade, left a thin red and black streak down his body, tore his clothing, and made a hole in the sole of his boot.

A big fish story comes from New Brunswick. It is stated that two persons caught, with hook and line in Fall Brook, St. Francis, in a part of two days, 1,580 trout, and that on another occasion two Frenchmen caught, in the same time, in the same brook, 1,200 of the same kind of fish.

In Turnberry a little boy was feeding some horses in the stable, when he touched one of them on the chest with the fork. The animal plunged forward, received the prong in the heart, and died. The other horse was frightened, and began to kick, and the little boy was rescued only after his arm was broken.

Capt. E. G. Green, of the Montreal Field Battery, committed suicide by shooting himself at Chateau Lamethe, near Bordeaux in France. Mr. Green was a native of Birmingham, was 39 years of age, and had many friends in Montreal. He was doing well in his business, and his suicide is inexplicable.

At Laurenceville a young farmer named Tibbitts mounted his horse and started for the river to rescue two drowning sheep. He was just entering the stream when his horse pitched him over his head. He appears to have been struck by the animal's hoof and stunned, for he sank at once, and when the body was recovered there was a black mark on his forehead.

At L'Etang, near the border line between New Brunswick and the United States, there has been discovered a deposit of mineral earth which has the property of preserving fruit from decay. This quality was accidentally discovered. A barrel of the stuff stood in a St. John store and a lad put some Bartlett pears in it, where they were forgotten and remained some months. On emptying the barrel the fruit came out perfect in size, and with the taste unimpaired. Mixed into a paste with paraffin it burns, giving out a great heat and a light. It is also manufactured into paint. The bed has a surface area of 300 acres, and it is at least 24 feet deep. The substance comes out in a solid mass, but crumbles easily into powder.

A Steam-Boat Trip.

Old hunters say that the tiger which has tasted human flesh will henceforth take no other; and it is equally true that he who has once traveled free on rail or river ever afterwards seeks to ride on his "pass." The Boston "Record" tells of such an individual, once a reporter and long a "dead-head."

One exceedingly hot day, having made up his mind that the proper thing to do was to take a salt-water excursion, this man of cheek strolled along the wharves of Boston in order to pick out the likeliest excursion steamer he could find. He selected one at last, went on board, hunted up a chair, took a seat in a shady place, put his feet on the rail, and began to read a newspaper. In about fifteen minutes a sailor-looking man opened a door, looked at him about a minute, and disappeared. In about ten minutes more the sailor-looking man came back and addressed the newspaper man.

"What are you doing here?" said he. "O!" exclaimed the newspaper man, "only going to take a little trip with you." And he whipped out his card and presented it. "Member of the press, you know—give you a good notice in the paper next week."

The sailor-looking man said not a word, and went back into the bowels of the vessel. Fifteen minutes more and the steamer hadn't started. The newspaper man began to get a little weary. He waited a little while longer, and went inside and hunted up the sailor-looking man, who was apparently engaged in polishing the ship's cable.

"Say!" said the newspaper man, "how long before this boat starts?" "Well," said the sailor-looking man, as he went on with his polishing, "I think she'll sail about a week from next Wednesday. She's laid up for repairs."

Science Baffled.

Young Man—Is it true, Doctor, that smoking cigarettes tends to soften the brain?

Physician—There is a belief to that effect but with all our boasted modern scientific appliances it can never be verified.

Young Man—Why, Doctor?

Physician—Because nobody with brains ever smokes them.

HEALTH.

To Avoid Contagion in Small-Pox.

1. On the first appearance of the disease, the patient should be placed in a separate apartment, as near the top of the house as possible, from which curtains, carpets, bed-hangings, and other needless articles of furniture should be removed, and no person except the medical attendant and the nurse or mother should be permitted to enter the room.

2. A basin containing a solution of carbolic acid or chloride of lime should be placed near the bed for the patient to spit in.

3. Handkerchiefs should not be used, but pieces of soft rags instead, for wiping the nose of the patient. Each piece after being used should be immediately burned.

4. A plentiful supply of water and towels should be kept for the use of the nurse, whose hands, of necessity, will be soiled by the secretions of the patient. In one hand-basin the water should be impregnated with Platt's or Cady's chloride, by which the taint on the hands may at once be removed.

5. Outside the door of the sick a sheet should be suspended, so as to cover the entire doorway; this should be kept constantly wet with a solution of lime. The effect of this will be to keep every other part of the house free from infection.

6. The discharges of the bowels and kidneys of the patient should be received into vessels charged with disinfectants, such as the solution of carbolic acid or chloride of lime, and immediately reserved. By these means the poison thrown off from internal surfaces may be rendered inert, and deprived of the power of propagating disease.

7. The garments and bed clothing of the sick should be placed in a disinfecting fluid until baled in the wash. Such a fluid may be made thus: Dissolve together in water in the proportions of four ounces of the zinc sulphate and two ounces of salt to the gallon of water.

A Wet Sheet Pack.

This valuable process in water treatment may be briefly described as follows: Have ready two or three comfortable or thick blankets, one woolen blanket, and a large linen or cotton sheet. It is important to be certain that the sheet is sufficiently large to extend twice around the patient's body. More blankets are required in cool weather than in warm, although the pack should be taken in a room at temperate heat. Spread upon a bed or straight, bread lounge the comfortable, one by one, making them even at the top. Over them spread the woolen blanket, allowing its upper edge to fall an inch or two below that of the last comfortable. Wet the sheet in water of the proper temperature, wring out so that it will not drip, then gather the ends so that it can be quickly spread out. Now place its upper end even with the woolen blanket, and spread it out on each side of the middle sufficiently to allow the patient to lie down upon his back, which he should quickly do, letting his ears come just above the upper border of the sheet, and extending his limbs near together. Wrap the patient snugly, carefully first with the sheet and afterward with the blanket, taking care to exclude air from the neck to the toes. After the bath give the patient a cool or tepid sponge bath, or a wet sheet rub, and he will probably feel greatly refreshed and invigorated. This form of bath is particularly useful in diseases of a febrile type.

A Meteor Falls in Midday.

A startling phenomenon occurred at Valcartier, Quebec, the other day in the shape of a blazing meteor making a rapid descent. The meteor was probably 10 feet in circumference. After touching the earth it emitted a strange light, reminding one of the pictured scenes of the infernal regions. The sight worked on the minds of the people, many conjuring up the worst fears and looking forward to a speedy dissolution of the universe. What most enhanced their fears was the fact that just previous to the occurrence the sky lowered, the beasts of the field sent up unearthly and distressing screams, bringing the credulous trembling to their knees. Within the past few days the lightning has been very severe and earthquake shocks have been frequent.

Some men have greatness thrust upon them; especially when a fat person sits next to them in the street cars.

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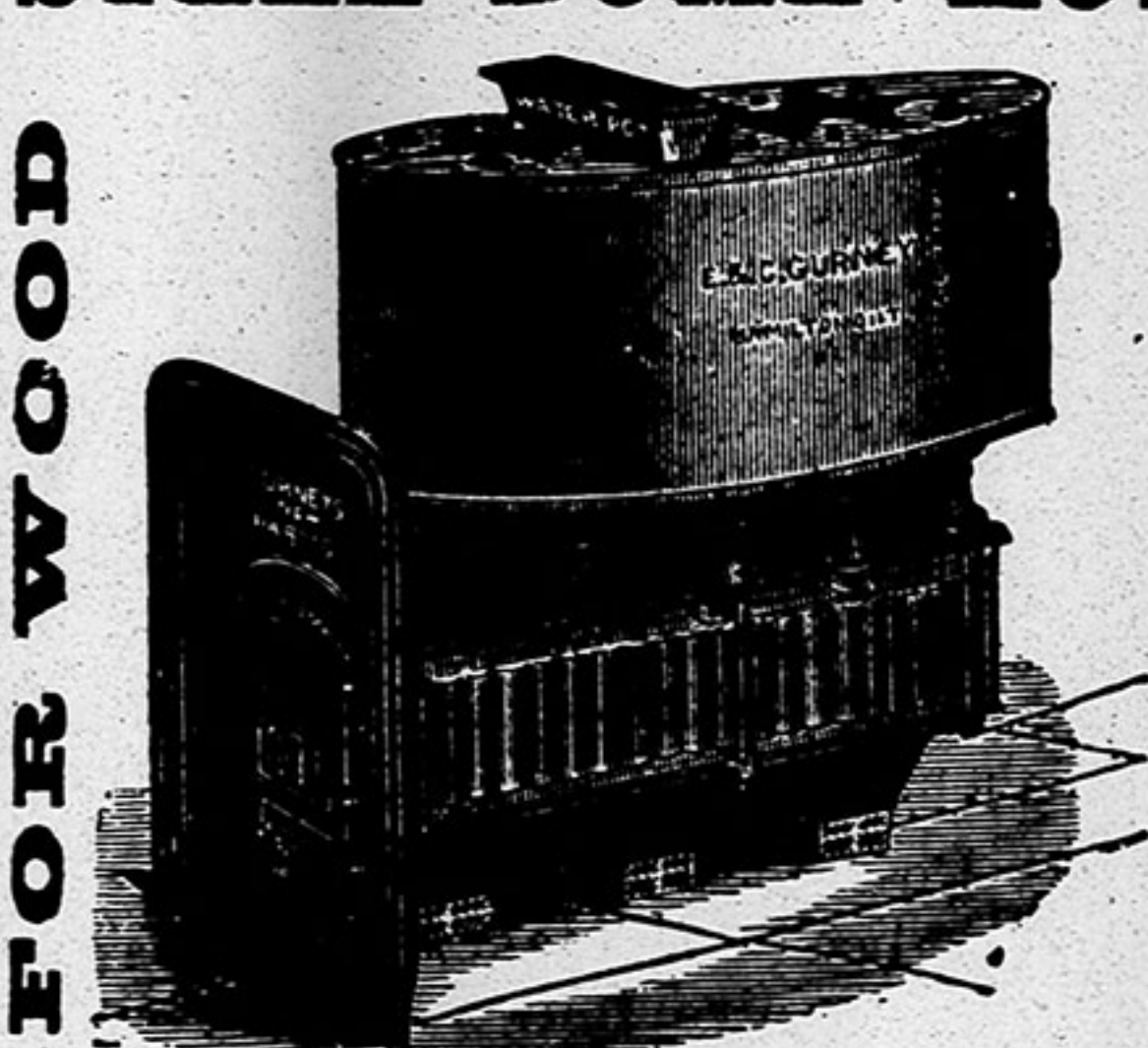
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