

FARM NOTES

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Rockford, Ia.

Correspondence Solicited.

Warmth for stock during the winter is just another name for food.

The first thing a fellow finds out when he goes to law is \$10; sometimes more.

The government wants blacksmiths and hroseshoers for duty in the Philippines at \$75 per month.

It costs more to put the last 25 pounds on a 200 pound hog than it did to make the first seventy-five pounds.

There are now 39 beet sugar factories in successful operation in this country, the state of Michigan leading with twelve.

While wheat is a much better balanced ration than is corn, still neither cattle nor hogs will put on flesh so fast with it as they will with corn.

We have known some otherwise very good and truthful people to fall from grace when they had a job of dividing a flock of mixed turkeys in the fall.

A man takes a certain hazardous risk when he buys land to farm in the usual manner in any locality where the average rainfall is 12 inches or less per annum.

The long continued drought of the past summer about finished up all clover sown last spring. Had the clover been sown alone this would not have happened.

The demand for the American horses for the Boer-English war still continues a demand which had not a little to do with the greatly increased price of horses all over this country.

We have the ancient story of Nebuchadnezzar being turned out to grass, which he is said to have eaten like an ox. If it was an October blue grass pasture they turned him into, it was no so bad after all.

We cover up all grapevines, raspberry and blackberry bushes in the fall. While they would pull through all right some winters, it still is the only sure method to follow if one wants to be sure of a crop next year.

The wise men composing the legislature of the great state of Ohio have enacted some dairy legislation based upon the theory that the sort of ration fed to a cow determines the quality of her milk. This legislature is behind the times.

We never knew a man to get tired of raising good Shorthorn cattle, while we have known many a one to drop the other standard breeds. The Shorthorns are to cattle what the Poland-Chinas and the Concord are to hogs and grapes.

The most valuable quarter section of land in the whole world is probably that of Beaumont, Tex., upon which are located the great oil wells. Two years ago this tract would have been dear at \$30 per acre, while today it is valued at \$400,000,000.

If you can get a load or two of well rotted stable manure it is the best top dressing available for the lawn. Put it on this fall and give the lawn a thorough raking in the spring. Care should be taken to use only well rotted manure; otherwise a plague of weeds may result.

We have lately received samples of the wheat, barley and oats grown in the Alberta country. The past season has been a very favorable one for cereal crops in that region, and the samples referred to are of exceptionally fine quality, much superior to the same cereals grown in more southern latitudes.

A writer recently referred to the frost as painting the colors on the foliage of the trees in the fall of the year. We think this is an error, for the most beautifully tinted foliage may always be found in those seasons when there is no frost, when the leaves ripen naturally. This fact was especially noticeable this fall.

The hundreds of farmers' mutual insurance companies are making a fine record. If you have such a company in your county, join it; if there is none, unite with your neighbors in organizing one. You get absolutely safe insurance; no "niggling" when a loss is sustained; and the premiums paid are not sent out of the country.

Japan in the year 1900 took \$15,000,000 worth of the agricultural products of this country against only \$2,000,000 taken five years ago. This well illustrates the possible value of these oriental markets to the American farmer.

With the hogs worth close to 6 cents a pound live weight, wheat is worth over .25 per bushel to feed them.

Nebraska has made the following standard of quality for milk and cream which are sold to the public: Milk must test not less than 3 per cent, butter fat and cream not less than 15 per

cent. By the way, 3 per cent. milk is pretty thin stuff, and fat babies will not be found on the route of the milkman who sells it.

What may be done with a small piece of land is well illustrated by a man whom we know who the past season has sold the produce raised on two town lots containing just 64 square rods of ground for \$125, or at the rate of over \$300 per acre. The produce raised was mostly common garden vegetables.

When you have sown the clover in the spring with a nurse crop, pastured it in the fall after the crop has been removed, cut the field for hay the following June and taken a crop of seed from it in September, that clover field has fulfilled its mission and is done for unless enough seed is left on the ground to reseed the field.

A man who would kick up quite a fuss should some relation of his wife's come to his home and hang around unwilling to work for his board, would still keep in his cow barn and milk twice a day one or more cows who are just as big beasts as any relative which his wife may have, and do it all complacently just because of his ignorance.

What seems to be a perfect remedy for sores in young calves, a public with which nearly every dairyman is familiar, is found in the use of dried blood is prepared for market at the large packing house concerns. A tablespoonful of this blood powder, mixed with the milk ration to the calves, works a cure in every case in a short time. This is worth remembering.

The American people have a deeper coffee and sugar in plain sight. The production of coffee has been enormously increased, and that in many countries, while the production of beet sugar bids fair to become one of the leading agricultural industries of this country. Inasmuch as the American people use more coffee and sugar than any other people, this is not a bad prospect.

Persistent advertising will create a demand for any fairly good article, but a superlatively good article will find a market, anyway. There is a certain cereal breakfast food being made today which, so far as we have noticed, has never been advertised at all, yet because of its excellence, the demand is so great that the manufacturers cannot fill the orders sent them.

We have a friend who owns a good farm, and he rents this farm right along for 57 cents an acre less than he could get for the reason that he has a tenant who takes good care of the place. This tenant keeps the fences up, the barn doors in place, the manure hauled out, the tree trimmed, the highway mowed, and our friend thinks all these things are worth 75 cents an acre to him when he goes to see the place.

The man with a productive apple orchard located in the Northwest, while he has plenty of discouragement, always has this advantage over his brother orchardist in the more favored regions of the far East: the far West—he is always close to a good market in a territory where the production of apples will be far beyond the normal demand. And this question of a good market for fruit is one of the main elements of attaining success in the business.

In the city of Vienna, last year, there were 25,640 horses and mules slaughtered for food, the meat being sold in 185 meat shops specially licensed by the municipal authorities for this purpose. All this meat was carefully inspected by government officials before being sold. The fore quarters of these animals sell for from 5 to 8 cents per pound and the hind quarters at 10 cents, choice cuts retailing at 15 cents, or less than one-half the price of similar cuts of beef.

The past season has been a bad one for the farmers in England and Scotland. The competition of the low priced grains and meats of this country has about ruined the agricultural interests of those countries. Each year shows a fewer number of acres tilled and a lesser amount of stock kept, while my lord who lives in the castle

on the hill mournfully regards his ever-decreasing rent roll and has to resolve himself into a committee of ways and means to make both ends meet.

The Poetry of the Cornfield.
Some may not know that the corn and the cornfield have been most charmingly treated by the poet, Longfellow, in his "Song of Hiawatha." After the manner of poets, Mondamin, the corn, is pictured as a young and stalwart man, who appears to Hiawatha as he is in retirement in the woods, fasting, anxiously hoping to discover some god thing for his people. Mondamin appears to him

With his hot and shining tresses,
With his garments green and yellow,
With his long and glossy plumage,

and invites Hiawatha to wrestle with him, which is repeatedly done, Mondamin always coming off the victor, but with each defeat Hiawatha grows stronger until, putting forth a supreme effort, he flings Mondamin on the ground.

And before him, breathless, lifeless,
Lay the youth with hair disheveled,
Plumage torn and garments shattered,
Dead he lay there in the sunset.

Then Mondamin is buried in the warm, rich earth and Hiawatha watches over his grave.

Till at length a small green feather
From the earth shot slowly upward,
Then another and another,
And before the summer ended
Stood the maize in all its beauty.

Then the cornfield is blessed, and Minnehaha in the midnight hour and alone, unclothed, makes the circuit of the field to place a charm upon it so that the ravens and the crows shall not destroy it, and when the corn is ripe in the fall the young men and maidens are called

To the harvest of the cornfield,
To the husking of the maize ear.

And when some dusky maiden finds a blood-red ear
"Nuska," cried they all together—
"Nuska, you shall have a sweetheart,"
the whole story of Mondamin being one of the most charming in the English language.

The Farm and Prosperity.
The evolution of a period of national prosperity is indicated by progressive steps—first, an improvement in the stock and bond market; next, new life in all manufacturing interests, this involving the employment of labor; next, improved prices for all farm products, brought about by the increased consumption, and last of all a market rise in the value of agricultural lands. This country is now at the last stage of this evolution of a period of great prosperity, with little short of a veritable boom all over the country in land values. The evolution of a period of so called hard times is simply the foregoing process reversed—first, a panicky stock market, then a curtailment of manufacturing and discharge of laborers, lowered prices for farm products, and then to finish up, decreased values of farm land, the farm always being the last to feel the effect of both conditions.

The Poor Man's Credit.
Keep your credit good. No matter whether you are poor or whether you have a good rating in Bradstreet's. The limited credit which a poor man may enjoy, if he will, is very often invaluable to him, and if secretly maintained by him enables him to preserve his self-respect and avoid asking for favors as a charity. If everybody would promptly pay his small obligations, the business of the world would be done with far less friction. When you have read this, if you owe any man 50 cents or less, go and pay it, for herein lies the moral.

The Rothschilds have just purchased the greatest copper mine in Mexico for \$2,000,000. They now employ 27,000 men in their various copper mines.

IS FAMINE RAVAGED.

PEOPLE OF ARCOT, INDIA, IN AN AWFUL CONDITION.

Children Fighting for Food Like Rats — Eat Bitter Aloes Devour the Leaves and Bark of Tree.

Bombay letter: Americans will, I suppose, be almost tired of hearing of our troubles here again in the direction of threatened and existing famine.

Thankful for past generosity from the great Western Republic, however, we cannot help telling of the distress from hunger now prevailing here at the present time. While our missionaries are not asking for further funds at present, unless the rains come, as so earnestly hoped may be the case, the distress in the North Arcot region will reach terrible proportions. As I have just returned from a trip through the district affected I can furnish you with the latest facts concerning conditions there. My journey took me through the districts north and east of Katpadi. In passing through the villages I tried to make a careful, exact and thorough examination of the conditions, more particularly among the lower class. I found it no easy task to get at the facts in many cases, owing to the strictness of the caste laws, or regulations.

In fact my efforts were rendered fruitless in many cases when I ventured among the better classes, who, I think, are suffering as keenly as the some of the others.

Of course, the only manner in which the subject could be investigated was by entering the house, examining the panels, in which the people store their grain and food stuffs, and questioning the people.

The only way in which I could get admittance to panels in most instances, was by boldly pushing my way in and ascertaining exactly the condition of the food supply, for it was rarely the case that members of the family would admit themselves to be starving.

To begin with, I found that the American Arcot Mission had been feeding the children in the schools for the past fourteen months, giving them one meal a day, while for the past five months they have been making a provision of the same kind for the old people.

In but few cases did I find anything at all in what an American calls his pantry, where there should have been supplies stored for weeks ahead.

In most cases I found one or two of the members of the family lying on rags in secluded corners of the house with the patient, sad look and gaunt features which tell the terrible story of the hunger stricken without necessitating the asking of painful questions.

From school teachers I learned that most of the inhabitants of the district were living on grass seeds, leaves from the trees, or the stunted prickly pear known as the aloes.

There was evidence enough to support this statement for everywhere I went both the hands of adults and children were stained with the juice of this miserable apology for fruit. Besides that the streets were filled with the skins of this fruit, which even the pariah dog will not eat, and one saw quantities of it being carried to the houses.

Sometimes the aloes are cooked, but as a general thing the hunger is so great that the people cannot even wait for the simple operation required for doing that.

The hedges on which the fruit grows have been almost denuded and now, go where you will, you will see the hungry people armed with long poles gathering the fruit that is out of reach of the hand.

The horrors of hunger in India have never been described so graphically by either pen or camera that they give an adequate idea of the real thing. Not only have many of the aloes trees been denuded of their fruit, but in their ravenousness the people have torn off the unspeakably bitter leaves to eat and then cut down the trees and dug the roots out.

In one of the villages a man attempted to show me the evening meal for the family, consisting simply of a small dish of cooked aloes. While he was bringing it to me the children standing around waiting for the food, attacked him like rats. Their pinched faces and bony figures showed every emotion and expectancy of terrible hunger. There were few pieces left for the others when he reached me with the dish and before he reached the house where the old people awaited their meal, every scrap had been snatched from the dish. The children are generally mere skeletons, while the old people are just a bag of bones.

Owing to the lightness of rains recently the people have done but little planting. The crops which were sown and have not been irrigated properly had been burnt up and are a total loss.

In many places no crops have been raised for three years.

The condition of the agriculturist is at no time such as to enable him to save much, if anything for the lean years which will invariably come.

The following statement of one small cultivator's profit and loss account for a recent year will give a fair idea of the chances of the ryot ever growing wealthy.

Proceeds from crops raised: thirty-six rupees; money expended on improvement of the well, twenty rupees; taxes, twenty-three rupees; net loss for the year, without cost of wages, seed or other items—seven rupees. As it is compulsory to pay taxes, the ryot sold his bullocks, and his brass vessels, at much lower prices than he could replace them for, reducing his possessions to a cow and an ox with which to resume cultivation in case the animals do not meanwhile die of starvation.

Almost all the wells are now dry and in consequence there is little or no wet cultivation going on. The lime tree

gardens which are from fifteen to thirty years old and should now be at their very best bearing condition.

The scarcity of water is unprecedented here, even surpassing that which was experienced in the awful drought of 1878. A few of the more fortunate of the people possess wooded property which they are denuding of the trees although they have to sell the wood for half its value in good seasons.

Naturally there has been a heavy emigration from the district and some of the villages have become almost deserted owing to the departure of the people and the ravages of the longer-drought.

People are willing to do any kind of work for a trifle and if the government does not soon come to the rescue by opening congeal kitchens and starting relief works the horror will be increased.

BEN SAVATEL

THE MODERN MENAGERIE

Advance Made in Care of Animals in the Last Twenty-Five Years.

It is gratifying to note the advance which has been made in the housing and care of animals in menageries during the last 25 or 30 years. Most of us can remember when the average animal in a "wild beast show" was doomed to lead a miserable life of confinement in a small cage, and sometimes the attendants knew how the animals should be fed and cared for, and sometimes they did not.

In most large city menageries this has been changed. The Zoological park at Washington is almost an ideal place for such a collection of animals. In the first place, it is large. The park covers a tract of ground sufficiently diversified in character to give each a place suited to its habits, with room for a commodious house or kennel and a large yard. The bears have their rock caves, the buffalo own a section of a considerable hill, the monkeys, parrots and other tropical animals are housed in a building big enough to permit good ventilation; and the raccoons have a large, dead, hollow tree, with many branches, all to themselves.

There is a large creek where the elephants can be led down to bathe, and while the place is near enough to the city to be easily accessible, it is not near enough to be the daily resort of mere curiosity-seekers who might find their chief pleasure in tormenting the animals.

The result of all this is that the collection does not have to be constantly recruited by fresh importations. The animals have a longer lease of existence, and some of them even breed in captivity, a thing almost unknown in the old menagerie days. The improved condition of things is a good economic measure, as well as a benefit to the animals themselves.

If the powers that be in Washington follow the recommendation of Colonel Philip Reade, the United States army will have its pedic surgeons—in common every-day English corn doctors—added to its roster. At first sight the recommendation might seem in the nature of a joke on the part of the gallant colonel, but there is really more of common sense in it than many army improvement plans which reach the war department. Spain has long recognized the usefulness of such functionaries as the chiropodist, while in the Indian army, which does considerable route marching during the year, the P. C. Y. believes that the soldier's feet are as much cared for as is his body in general.

The color of the new carpet in the east room of the white house is old gold; it matches the damask curtains. The rule of the new steward, Henry Pinckney (formerly Mr. Roosevelt's body servant), is said to be milder than that of his predecessor, Sinclair, the negro who accompanied Mr. Cleveland from Albany to Washington in 1885, and who was reinstated by that president in 1892. "A new rule," writes a correspondent, "has been laid down in regard to the tenure of the various servants about the house, and this is that none of them is to be dismissed or discharged without the knowledge of Mrs. Roosevelt."

EARL RUSSELL.



LORD RUSSELL.

Lord Russell, who has recently been released in England after serving a term of imprisonment for bigamy, intends to make his future home in this country with his second wife. It was urged that, as an convict, he should not be permitted to land here. The treasury department refuses to bar him. According to our laws he is not a bigamist.



Three men of Gotham.
Went sea in a bowl.
If the bowl had been stronger,
My son had been longer,
Find the life-saver.