

FARM.

CURING PORK.

The meat is not fit for salting until free from animal heat, and yet it should not be frozen in the least, as this condition prevents the salt penetrating it.

CARE OF MILK.

It is only the poorest of poor managers who produce milk that is not of good enough standard to make fine butter.

FEEDING FLOOR.

A feeding floor made of scantling covered with old plank, that can be gathered up on almost any farm, laid on the ground, so that the floor will be more than four or five inches above the ground, will be a great improvement over the ground feeding floor.

PROFITS OF THE FARM.

Whether farmers get their rightful share of the farm profits depends not only upon their ability to work and plan, but also upon their ability to market what they have to sell, as well as upon the carefulness of the wife also.

Wife of Young Literary Man—"Why, George! A hundred dollars for that magazine story? How long did it take you to write it?"

Not long ago a farmer had his dog assessed and afterward paid a tax on him. The dog got among his owner's sheep one night and killed some of them.

THE FARMS OF ONTARIO.

Their Average Condition.

GENTLEMEN,—It may seem an outrageous statement to make, as I now do, that you do not know what you have, or what you are doing, individually or collectively, on an average.

From this interesting volume I propose to cull these points that to me appear of more than usual significance—that are largely unknown, and that demand your serious consideration, both as individuals and professionally.

The Province of Ontario, according to organized townships, has 22,000,000 acres of occupied land, of which almost exactly one half is cultivated, the other half being under forest.

That is the subject; what has it done in the way of annual produce? For five years the system of cropping has been roughly— one half grain, one-fifth hay and one-fifth pasture.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes 44 acres of grain, 21 hay, 21 roots, 22 pasture, dairy value, 1 1/2 orchard and garden, 4 1/2 other crops, 44 acres of straw, etc.

From cultivated crops Ontario receives a gross value of \$15 70 per acre. This must be characterized as an unsatisfactory result, when climate and soil are considered.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes 1 farm labourer, whole year, 1 farm labourer, half year, Blacksmith and saddler, Taxes, Insurance and incidentals, Keep of four horses.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes Dairy products in winter, fat stock, wool, lambs, calves, pigs and poultry, Actual cash payments, Interest on capital of \$8,740 at 6 per cent., Cash payments as voted, Household allowance, Permanent improvements, or banking, To compare with gross crop receipts.

Here then is material enough for international and provincial thought and criticism, and I shall open thus:—The average farmer of the Province of Ontario is doing well, is actually making money.

I ask you then to take these \$2,000 of crops and dispose of them as indicated in the above abstract of \$500 for four things; and yet, again, if you demand a full account of all the agencies at work on every farm, and may hint at a loss in maintenance of live stock, and an amount of labor in cropping, overbalancing present prices, I must request any one who attempts it, to go the whole course of a rotation, through the light of the practice and science that now-a-days does lead us, whether we acknowledge it or not.

I have no hesitation, therefore, in again repeating that you are not only doing well and making money, whether placed in the bank, in improvements, or in mortgage; but you are actually wealthy.

Farmers of Ontario, am I twenty-five per cent. wrong? If you can show this, even then you are doing well. Take these statements with my best wishes and the hope that you think more of your splendid possession.

WM. BROWN. Ontario Ag. College, Guelph.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

A STEPMOTHER WHO WAS APPRECIATED.

A recent Chinese Emperor, in announcing the demise of his stepmother, sent the following communication to his Ministers:—"We have attended her Majesty since we received the throne, and have cherished her for twenty-nine years.

Among the Lolos of Western China it is customary for the bride on the wedding morning to perch herself on the highest branch of a large tree, while the elder female members of her family cluster on the lower limbs, armed with sticks.

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HOUSEHOLD.

MEALY POTATOES.

Mealy potatoes are more nutritious than waxy, because the former contain the greatest quantity of starch. Thus a microscope shows a potato to be almost entirely composed of cells, which are sometimes filled, and sometimes contain clusters of beautiful little oval grains.

UNLEAVENED BREAD.

Unleavened bread, if properly made, is unquestionably very much superior to leavened bread as an article of diet. The objection to leavened bread is that the yeast is not wholly destroyed in the baking process, and is likely to set up fermentation in the stomach.

WASHING THE HANDS.

A little ammonia or borax in the water you wash your hands with, and that water just luke-warm, will keep the skin clean and soft. A little oatmeal mixed with the water will whiten the hands.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

MANY PIANO dealers recommend cotton flannel for dusting pianos as superior to anything else.

"ELASTIC" STARCH obviates the necessity of boiled starch, and it imparts to linen a fine polish.

TO KEEP THE STRENGTH of the coffee while it is boiling, plug the nose of the coffee-pot with a wad of brown paper.

EGG SHELLS will clean vinegar or nursing bottles as well as shot, and they possess the advantage of being always on hand in every kitchen.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS THE EAR-ACHE turn a drop of milk as hot as it can be borne into the ear and cover it quickly with a bit of cotton batting.

BRASS MAY BE COLORED BLACK by repeatedly coating the cleansed metal with a moderately warm solution of nitrate of copper. Heating over a charcoal fire follows.

TO CLEAN CARPETS.—Go over them once a week with a broom dipped in hot water to which a little turpentine has been added.

TO TELL CAKE IN THE OVEN, never insert a broom splinter, but draw it gently forward and put the ear close to the loaf; if it is not done there will be a little sputtering sound.

TO PREVENT PIE JUICE from running out in the oven, make a little opening in the upper crust and insert a little roll of brown paper perpendicularly.

TO CLEAN SILVER.—One half pound of sal soda added to eight quarts of water; when at a boiling heat dip the pieces of silver, and immediately wash in soap suds, and wipe dry with a piece of cotton flannel.

PAPER MAY BE STUCK ON WOOD by means of the following solution: Gum arabic, half an ounce; powdered gum tragacanth, half an ounce; water, one and a half ounces; acetic acid, twenty drops.

A BLACKISH-BROWN BRONZING can be applied to vases, figures, busts, etc., or cast iron zinc, by the application of a solution of sulphate of copper.

A STEEL COLOR ON BRASS is developed by using a boiling solution of arsenic chloride, while a careful application of a concentrated solution of sodium sulphite causes a blue coloration.

TO CLEAN HOT WATER COPPER BOILERS.—Get three cents worth of oxalic acid at your druggist's, put it in a pint bottle and fill it with cold water.

STAINING WOOD TO IMITATE CEDAR.—German technical papers recommend the following mixture for the staining of wood in imitation of cedar.

Christian or Mahomedan.

That at this period in the Christian era a discussion should arise on the relative merits of Christianity and Mahomedanism as civilizing agencies is passing strange.

In opposition to Canon Taylor Canon MacColl has come to the front. Canon Taylor fortifies himself largely with quotations from the reports of missionaries in India and Africa, and of travellers and military men who have had opportunities of judging of the results of missionary efforts among the heathen.

A little ammonia or borax in the water you wash your hands with, and that water just luke-warm, will keep the skin clean and soft. A little oatmeal mixed with the water will whiten the hands.

TO CLEAN CARPETS.—Go over them once a week with a broom dipped in hot water to which a little turpentine has been added. Wring a cloth in the hot water and wipe under pieces of furniture too heavy to be moved.

TO TELL CAKE IN THE OVEN, never insert a broom splinter, but draw it gently forward and put the ear close to the loaf; if it is not done there will be a little sputtering sound. When it is thoroughly baked there will be no sound.

TO PREVENT PIE JUICE from running out in the oven, make a little opening in the upper crust and insert a little roll of brown paper perpendicularly. The steam will escape from it as from a chimney, and all the juice will be retained in the pie.

TO CLEAN SILVER.—One half pound of sal soda added to eight quarts of water; when at a boiling heat dip the pieces of silver, and immediately wash in soap suds, and wipe dry with a piece of cotton flannel.

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