

AGRICULTURAL.

BEDDING PLANTS FROM SEED.

To raise a large quantity of bedding plants from cuttings and winter them over in greenhouses, is expensive and not everybody can spare the cash.

Soft feed for chicks is undoubtedly the cause of a great deal of mortality among them. A mixture of cornmeal, old bread, bran and middling, with just enough milk to moisten it, is a good feed and broken rice may be given for a change.

Keep all the dirt possible out of the milk, and do not depend on the strainer to take out dirt. Only hairs and such dirt as is mechanically held can be strained out.

THE FARMER'S GARDEN.

Take the country at large, the farmer's garden is a sorry looking sight. The planting of it is frequently left till after all the field crops are in; then it is often neglected and allowed to grow to weeds.

POTTED PLANTS

An experienced florist says: Many amateur gardeners would find that saucers to set their pots in would help them out of many trials with their pot plants, especially with such as are set on dry, airy shelves, for they retain the moisture for the lowest roots to feed on.

LIME ON SOILS.

Lime applied to sour and unproductive soils neutralizes the vegetable acids that are poisonous to the farmers' crops, unlocks barnyard manures and other fertilizers applied to and found in the soil, and allows them to operate freely.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Isn't feeding a dry cow all winter sort of drying on the purse? Politeness pays in the cow stable. A gentle man gets more milk than a harsh one.

There are one hundred millions of dollars invested in the farms, cows, factories, buildings and machinery, that it takes to produce \$20,000,000 per annum in dairy products in this country.

In England it is claimed the annual agricultural products have been trebled within the last thirty years by the knowledge of better methods which public and private enterprise has disseminated.

The more succulent foods make the more watery milk and oily cream, which churns the easier. Hence ensilage and roots are favorable to butter making, the oils principally giving butter its flavor.

In winter, there should always be on hand a supply of succulent food, such as ensilage or some kind of roots. These are relished exceedingly, help keep the bowels in good condition, and increase the flow of milk.

A purchase of cheese at Chicago, the second week in January, included 4,500 boxes Summer-made Wisconsin cheese, which was fine, and was taken by a Canadian operator for through shipment to Liverpool.

The agricultural professors tell us that the raising of 30 bushels of wheat to the acre will remove from the land 51 pounds of nitrogen, 24 pounds of phosphoric acid and 37 pounds of potash.

BEGONIA WELTONIENSIS IN A WINDOW.—This pretty plant succeeds, an English paper says, under the most simple treatment, and a better subject for a window could hardly be named.

Is corn fodder good for sheep? asks a correspondent. Yes. If it is good, clean, bright fodder, sheep will eat it well and do well upon it.

Another Seizure.

The seizure of an American schooner in New Brunswick waters last Friday makes a very early and unpromising opening of the season in this respect. The report of the Canadian Minister of the Marine and Fisheries had just announced that there was only one seizure by the Dominion cruisers during the whole of last year.

Tosti, the Song Writer.

Signor Paolo Tosti, the song writer, lives in a charming flat, which has been almost entirely upholstered by himself. He is extremely clever in this respect, and can make anything from a chair to a picture-frame. His fingers are as deft with the hammer, scissors, and gum brush as they are with the piano.

Sea-Calming Cartridges.

A cartridge has been invented by Mr. Albert H. Walker, of Hartford, Conn., which when filled with oil and discharged, will pacify the stormiest of seas. The receptacle is of ordinary cartridge size, but is made of heavy paper, and is weighted at the further end with a small piece of lead.

The stairway leading to the office of a professional man in Atlanta is fitted up with a wire which communicates with a small bell in the office. Any one going up the stairway steps on the concealed wire and rings the bell.

AS YOU LIKE IT.

A CHANGE OF THOUGHT.

I used to think her dainty form The fairest ever molded; I used to think no hair like hers Was e'er on sweet brow folded;

A Pennsylvania, wishing to help the hens "bear their yolk," is making artificial eggs.

It took Lecaron fourteen days to tell his story. This, remarks The Chicago Herald, probably the longest lie on record.

Four young men in St. Petersburg in tend riding horseback to the Paris Exhibition. They expect to make the trip in 75 days.

Before the wedding day a girl generally overrates the man she is to marry, but she more than makes up for her misjudgment afterward.

The Philadelphia Record thinks that it will take a long time for The London Times to save at the bung hole what it has wasted at this Pigott.

About 2300 B. C., when Emperor Yan gave the order for the observation of the meridian stars, is thought to be the beginning of Chinese astronomy.

The Philadelphia Record declares that the three suburban poorhouses of Philadelphia are "palaces" in which the poor are maintained in Sybaritic luxury.

Otto Hegner, the musical prodigy, is still adding to his laurels in London. The best critics in that city agree that he is, on the whole, greater than Joseph Hofmann.

It is strange, exclaims The New York World, that some bright American girl does not grasp the fact that she could make a sensation by writing an interesting novel which was not indecent.

A Texas steer lifted a carriage and baby off a street and over a high fence in Denver without the least damage. Indeed, the baby cackled with delight over the performance, and the nurse did not have to stop her flirtation with a soldier.

The Emperor of Japan is rich. He is allowed \$2,500,000 a year for his household department, and his private fortune is large and increasing. He thoroughly understands business matters, and keeps himself well informed as to his investments.

While a man at Carlisle, Penn., was running a planer his coat-tail got tangled and was fortunately torn off. A bit of wood in his pocket blocked a cog-wheel and saved his life. The wood was a piece of John Brown's scaffold, it is said.

Lord Randolph Churchill and Lord Hartington have been among the recent regular attendants at the Monte Carlo gambling tables. Randy's American wife sternly disapproves of this sort of recreation, and has more than once quietly led her husband away from the tables.

The new powder, which is now used in the German army for sifting into the shoes and stockings of the foot soldiers, consists of three parts of salicylic acid, ten parts starch, and eighty-seven parts pulverised soapstone. This mixture keeps the feet dry, prevents chafing, and rapidly heals sore spots.

The daughter of a wealthy Californian, before going to Europe, made up a telegraphic code and gave it to her father. He locked it in his desk. Last week he got a telegram from her. It consisted of one word—"Laugh." He laughed and then got out the code, which read:—"Laugh—Send me \$500."

Charlotte Mason became an inmate of an asylum for the insane in Virginia sixty-one years ago. Her malady was in some way connected with the election of John Quincy Adams, who was then President of the United States. Though she had never seen Mr. Adams, Miss Mason talked of no one else from the time of her incarceration up to her death, which has only just occurred.

Joseph G. Parkinson, of Chicago, is said to be the only deaf and dumb lawyer in America. He is associated with his twin brother, who does not share his disabilities. When Mr. Parkinson was 23 years old he was chief examiner in the Patent office at Washington, a place he held for six years. In 1879 he resigned and soon afterward was admitted to practise before the United States Supreme Court. He now ranks as one of the most successful patent lawyers in the country.

A writer who contends that old-fashioned out-of-door games are the best form of exercise for children says: Running makes a trim ankle and a shapely leg, and girls should be encouraged to run as often as possible in old-fashioned games of ball or prisoner's base, which, as it used to be played, left few fibres of the body without stretch and refreshment. The dodging, the feints and sudden dashes for base were good practices in tactics, giving a quick eye and foot and lithe body.

Dear Friends.

According to the "Reichsanzeiger" of Berlin, the late Crown Prince Rudolf was "the dearly loved friend" of the present German Emperor. A few months ago these dear friends were in converse with each other. Rudolf talked of literature and science. William then said, insolently, "Oh, I don't understand any of that. Such dry stuff is unworthy of a Prince."

Stories About Cats.

I have often read of cats and other savage preying animals taking care of and nursing with great fondness the young of animals on which they preyed, but not until recently did any such incident come under my immediate observation.

A neighbor of mine had a cat whose kittens were all drowned which seemed greatly to disturb Mrs. Pass and she hunted around very eagerly for her lost babies, but did not find them of course. She did find two little rabbits, though, and greatly surprised her owners by coming in with the little rabbits in her mouth. She carried them to her bed and adopted them as her kittens and they accepted her as their mama and thrived under her care.

Now, here is another incident still more remarkable. I did not see for myself, but the gentleman who told it, and at whose house it happened, did, and he is a man of such strict integrity that his word is above all suspicion. One of his cats lost her kittens and in hunting around for them, came upon a wounded sick rat, and she adopted it for her lost kittens and took care of it and nursed it until it got well.

Cats are not generally supposed to be endowed with a loving nature, but I have seen quite many that showed very strong attachment to their owners and disproved this idea in their own individual cases at least. Once at my home one of the cats had such a tiny morsel of a kitten that I called it Midget. It continued so small that I felt a compassion for the little creature and thinking that perhaps its mother did not give it enough milk, I began giving it some fresh milk every day, morning and evening, when the milkmaid brought the milk to strain, and she soon began to improve and was fat and slick, though not much in size.

Perhaps another time I may tell of some other animals and their clever and affectionate ways. One thing I am sure of, though, and that is, that the love and devotion of almost any thing can be won by kindness and care for them and are much more useful and tractable than if controlled by harshness, so, children, be kind to every thing. N. C.

Why Stanley Never L lectured in America.

When Henry came to New York in the full flush of his African achievement an enterprising Frenchman made a contract with him for \$50,000 to give a series of lectures throughout the United States. The first was to be given at the Academy of Music. Stanley had just come from Europe, where he was lionized, feted, and like Talma almost lectured to a pitiful of kings. When the hour approached he peeped out of the hole in the curtain and beheld a yawning chasm of empty seats. He could not understand it, he grew nervous, asked one of the reporters if his time was correct, and looked confused. The French impresario, who also peeped out of the hole, was more excitable. He stamped up and down, damned the apathy of the American people, rubbed his skull cap round in a comical manner, and swore that "dis country vas van sacre chien of a fraud."

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A Costly Business.

The Boston "Transcript" says:—The United States pays \$900,000 a year for its weather service, Great Britain \$800,000, Germany, \$56,000, Russia \$65,000, Austria \$10,000, Switzerland \$6,000, France \$60,000. And though no European nation attempts to do as much as we do, or take general observations more than once a day, the percentage of verification of predictions is rising there, which is hardly the case in this country. Our weather service, with its great cost and thorough organization, ought to be the best in the world.

THE CANADIAN MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The eighth annual meeting of "The Canadian Mutual Aid Association" was held at the company's office, 10 King street east, Toronto, on Thursday, 24 inst., a good representative gathering being present.

The President, Mr. William Rennie, occupied the chair, and in opening the meeting expressed his pleasure at seeing so many of the policy holders present, and was also specially pleased to see the number of the active agents of the Company present. Great success, he said, had been the experience of the past year. Although steady progress had marked the work of the Association from its organization, yet the past year far exceeded its predecessors in the volume of new business. He attributed this to the growing popularity of the assessment system of the insurance and more especially to the equitable and popular plan of our Company.

The manager, Mr. Wm. Pemberton Page, was then called upon to read the Directors' Report. The following is condensed from the financial statement:

Table with columns for Assets, Liabilities, and Income. Assets include Reserve Funds, Cash in Bank, Interest due, etc. Liabilities include Claims for death losses, Due on account of general expenses, etc. Income includes Collected on assessments, Interest, etc.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,—We have carefully audited the books and accounts of your Company, and compared vouchers with expenditure for the year ending 31st December, 1888, and have found them correct. We have also had free access to all bonds, mortgages and other securities held by the Company, and have much pleasure in certifying to their accuracy as shown in the Directors' report.

We find \$23,000 of the funds (Reserve and Disbursement) invested at 6 per cent. \$11,390 at 7 per cent. and all deposits in banks are drawing 4 per cent.

We would also express our approval of the very satisfactory manner in which we find the affairs of the Company.

JOHN PETERS, Hastings, } Auditors. JOHN WALES, Oakville, } Toronto, Jan. 24, 1889.

EIGHT TERSELY TOLD TRUTHS

An English tug recently towed a ship from the south coast of Brazil to Greenock, Scotland, a distance of about four thousand miles. It is the second longest tow on record.

Peter Hastings and Anna Smith of Utica, had been married fifteen minutes when he called her a liar, and clawed one of his eyes almost out and walked seven miles to her father's house.

Sylvanus Cobb only wanted an hour to lay the plot of a story and place his characters. It would have been harder for him to write a school composition than a serial to run for twenty weeks.

Olive Logan has been looking into the domestic economy of the French, and she ends it to consist in doing without things. She says they make nothing go further than other people, unless it is talk.

Jersey City has abolished its Newsboys' Home. It was found that the boys used it for a loafing place, and that four-fifths of its lodgers were boys who ran away from home and had no real need for its conveniences.

A dead-beat, who had but 60 cents to his name, took blank checks, went from store to store in Cairo, and made purchases of over \$400, filling out a check in each case. A man who signs his name to a check with a great flourish is supposed to be rich.

The annual report of the Indian Department of Canada says there are encouraging indications that the Indian element will eventually become amalgamated with the general population of the country. The Indian population of the Dominion is 124,589.

A woman in New England goes to a town and takes the name of some influential citizen, and claims relationship, and the first move the man makes is to give her from \$300 to \$1,000 to get out of town and go hence. She says she makes \$5,000 per year.