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Agricultural

BEST ROTATION FOR A STOCK FARM.

Nearly always in the run of a series of years the farmer meets with some difficulties in any system of rotation that he may adopt. The section of country in which the farmer has his farm, the climate and the crops grown have much to do with the rotations most advisable for him to follow. In sections where corn can be successfully grown, clover will be equally successful, and these two should always be a part of the rotation. With these a third and even fourth crop may come in as the farmer desires. If clover, wheat and corn are used, a three-year rotation must be followed, allowing one year to each crop. This is probably as short a rotation as can be successfully used. If Timothy is sown with the clover to occupy the land at the same time, the clover and Timothy may be allowed to occupy the land two years, but we doubt very much whether the stock farmer will find Timothy a satisfactory feed for his growing stock. Clover hay is much the better for all growing stock. Where oats can be successfully grown the rotation can be lengthened one year by following corn with oats, following oats with wheat and sowing the clover in the spring after the wheat is sown. This four-year rotation requires the plowing of the land twice, while the three-year rotation only requires the land to be turned once with the breaking plow. It should be remembered that if Timothy is used in the rotation, it is a surface feeder, as it were, a robber plant that may not return to the stock farmer a just compensation. When the farmer has thin land that he wishes to improve he can be used instead of wheat with profit, starting the clover in the rye, and "hogging the rye," instead of harvesting it. The next year the volunteer rye and clover will give a wonderful amount of feed. This way the growth of two seasons is returned to the land, and the stock farmer following any regular rotation, will find it very much to his advantage to have a permanent pasture equaling in area at least one-fourth of his cultivated land. If his cultivated land is rich, and gives abundant crops a larger part of one-fourth of his land will be found profitable as permanent pasture. Pastures properly managed give great returns for the labor expended and besides this, with a sufficient area of permanent pasture the stock need not be pastured on grain-growing cultivated land. This will prevent the jury of these lands by tramping, and save much expense in the way of fencing. Another point is that the permanent pasture gives the farmer an opportunity to keep the stock off an cultivated land during wet weather if it is his wish to use his farming land a part of the time for pasture. The stock farmer in determining a rotation should grow such crops as can be best used as feed for his stock. If corn is grown and fed no better hay can be grown to balance the corn ration than clover. A corn ration can never be balanced with Timothy, and more than this, corn always does better after clover. Do not grow oats simply because they are a good feed. If they do not yield a profitable crop at market prices discard them, especially if they are an uncertain crop. Always in any rotation that may be best aim to give each crop the best possible opportunity. For instance, in a three year rotation, corn does best after clover and wheat can be more cheaply produced after the corn. The chances for best results would be lessened if two years after the sowing would be a disappointment. The point is, when each crop has had its best opportunity, do not follow it by itself.

THE FARMER'S WOOD PILE.

Many farmers do not seem to realize the economy of having their fire in readiness for the busy season. Where wood is used, it is not only a convenience, but an actual necessity to have a year's supply of stove-wood prepared each winter, when the work on the farm is less pressing. Drags may be drawn from the woods. Two men, or a man and a boy, with a crosscut saw can soon convert them into stove-wood lengths, which when split and thrown into a pile, or what is still better, be corded away under shelter, will give you plenty of excellent, well-seasoned firewood; a good return spent for your time in preparing it. It is a pretty sure indication that a man is a wide-awake, energetic farmer when you see him bustling around in the winter to get his supply of fire-wood ready for the more busy times. It is an extravagance, a waste of valuable time, when the spring and summer work is hurrying, to be under the necessity of getting firewood. Perhaps the teams must wait for you to do so, or maybe after a long, hard day's work, you must finish up by cutting a few armfuls of firewood.

WHEN TO CUT TREES FOR LUMBER.

With proper after treatment of the wood, the time of felling does not seem to affect its durability. Winter felling is generally preferable to summer felling because both fungi and insects are then inactive and the timber may be handled more at leisure, both in the woods and during shipment and conversion, and if worked up at once has a chance to season to quite an extent before warm weather awakens its many enemies. Where logging and milling are carried on in a large way and the log is cut into boards and these put through the dry kiln before the fungi and beetles have a chance to

attack them, the product of summer felling is as good as that of any winter felled timber.

Where logging is done in a small way the cutting of timber in summer usually involves loss and commonly leads to inferior product. Peeling standing timber and allowing it to season on the stump is often recommended, but has never been favorably tried. Girthing timber to partially season it is done for cypress, but with indifferent success. To cut down trees and allow them to lie out before cutting into logs is often recommended, and it is claimed that this will lead to a complete removal of sap and stored reserve food, starch, and thereby increased durability. It is not practiced in this country.

LARGE STABLE DOORS BEST.

Have the stable doors extra high and wide. Horses dislike to bow the head when going in at a door too low for them, and there is great danger of skittish horses striking the upper door facing with their heads. This makes them shy of low doors ever after. We have seen more than one horse with a skinned head or back, in consequence having to go in and out at a low door. The door should not be less than 6-12 ft. high, and seven would be better. Where a tall man has to stoop, a horse sometimes strikes himself, especially if the stable is allowed to get very full of bedding. The door, itself, the shutter, need not be so tall. In fact, it is better to have it six inches or so shorter than the hole, in order to give ventilation and plenty of fresh air in summer. And the width of the stable door is important, too. Narrow doors are dangerous to the safety of a young or shy horse. Hips have been dislocated by the horse going out with a rush, and striking the door facing. A horse once hurt in this way is ever after shy of a narrow door. Three feet is not wide enough for a stable door. None should be less than four feet wide, and six and a half or seven feet high. Besides, large doors are convenient to those who have to work about stables. They are better when removing the bedding, or putting in new bedding. They afford more ventilation in summer, and they are safer to the man who handles the horses. And after having the stable doors made large, take care, always, that there is no protruding nails or pieces of timber in the facings, where a horse in passing could strike them and cut and tear its sides. It pays to give attention to these so-called small things. But it is not a small thing. The value of a horse depends upon it. Were there not so many ill-made and dangerous stable doors there would be less need to speak of it, but the number of careless or thoughtless farmers is still very large, and a word of caution now and then may do a deal of good.

JACK READY IF WANTED.

Meanwhile he Plays Football and Talks of the Navy's Worth.

The situation in naval circles in England, says the London Daily Mail, of a recent date, may be summed up by saying that work is simply going on as usual, and that, though that is so, there is not the slightest chance of our tars being caught napping. A rumour that said that Naval Reserve men had been ordered to hold themselves in readiness is quite unfounded. Enquiries prove that statements as to bringing up sea-going ships in harbour to their fighting complement having been officially ordered at Portsmouth is mere gossip. The battleship Trafalgar, portwardship, is the only one there, to which such an order would apply.

In Portsmouth garrison no unusual orders have been received, but it is expected that unless matters calm down within the next few days there will be a more or less complete mobilization of the artillery units to man the defenses. Naval men do not believe that France will be so unwise as to force on hostilities; but that if she does we shall be ready for her.

All the responsible departmental officials, both by word and demeanour, show that they are convicted that the command or the section of responsibility for which each is individually liable is ready for any call. The First Lord has but to put the magic word "Mobilize" on the wire and there will be a response at the home dockyards that will surprise the world. This may not be generally known, and although perhaps a small matter, yet it is just one of the many things that could be done.

Our tars, both officers and men, view the possibility of war with the greatest equanimity. Not the slightest excitement prevails among them. "If we are wanted, we are ready, and if we fight, we shall win," is the terse way in which they sum up the situation. Nature's gravest interest is taken in the progress of events, but Jack views matters with the utmost nonchalance. Should there be war our ships will put to sea manned by crews who feel confident that they will be able to achieve the same results as did the seamen of Nelson's day.

Anyone who mixes much among them just now cannot help being impressed by the calm self-assuredness which dominates all ranks. To questions as to what would be the result of hostilities the invariable answer is, "We should win."

FORBIDDEN BOOKS.

In Russia many scientific and miscellaneous books are not allowed to be sold, simply on account of a few objectionable lines. But if any one needs a book he can send a letter, with a certain fixed sum of money, and get a special permission to order a copy.

THE NIGHTCAP REVIVED.

Nightcaps are coming. That is the rumour that has reached here by way of London from Paris. There is no particular reason assigned for their revival. It is a mere caprice of the fashion. The fashion now-a-days seem to be to revive old fashions, and perhaps that is the reason for the newest freak.

Fair young women who have never seen a nightcap are now wondering how they will look. The nightcap was familiar enough to the people of a generation or two ago, but there are few women who are willing to admit that they have ever seen one. The ideas of the majority of the people of to-day on the subject are formed by the reference found in novels of homely English life. Mr. Pickwick wore a nightcap, and so did the woman into whose room he got by mistake one night. Mrs. Nickleby's nightcap was much in evidence. She thought a good deal of it and gave her son her ideas on the subject.

"People may say what they like," observed Mrs. Nickleby on one occasion, "but there is a good deal of comfort in a nightcap, as I am sure you would confess, Nicholas, my dear, if you would only have strings to yours and wear it like a Christian, instead of sticking it upon the very top of your head like a bluecoat boy. You needn't think it unmanly, or a quizzical thing to be particular about your nightcap, for I have often heard your poor dead papa and the Reverend Mr. What's-his-name, who used to read prayers in that old church with the curious little steeple that the weather-crook was blown off the night week before you were born—I have often heard them say that the young men at college are uncommonly particular about their nightcaps, and that the Oxford nightcaps, are quite celebrated for their strength and goodness; so much so, indeed, that the young men never dream of going to bed without them and I believe that is admitted on all hands, that they know what is good and don't coddle themselves."

The kind of nightcap they used at Oxford is still in vogue among men. Any woman who doesn't understand it can ask her husband. But the other sort, like that the good, simple Mrs. Nickleby wore, have been entirely out of fashion until just now, when they are reported to be about to regain their former vogue.

The chief thing women are asking about nightcaps just now is whether they are becoming. A group of girls were discussing that phase of the question the other day, when one of them declared her opposition to the new fad. "Of course they are becoming," it was agreed, or else no woman would think of wearing them. One of those in the party told that she had heard a report that some one had recommended that because "they say it improves the hair to sleep with covered head."

The interested looks of the other girls were intense until one of them declared vigorously: "Whoever said that was either some old woman who leaves her hair on her dressing table at night and wears caps to conceal the fact from her pillow, or one of those novelty seekers who doesn't know anything of hygiene, or hair culture or the like. Why, you all ought to know, if you don't, that the worst thing in the world is to smooth your hair in a covering at night. A well-groomed head of hair one would have if it were twisted together tightly all day and at night, crumpled up in the close space of a linen or muslin cap! You can see it upon your topknot with all the coquetry of a French millinery poem, but the fact remains that it is a superfluous and harmless addition to your toilet."

And then there every one in the group resolved to do without nightcaps whether it be fashionable or not to wear them. But whether they will keep their vows or not depends upon whether the fashion becomes general.

DOG TAX AT MOSCOW.

The City Council of Moscow has just decided to levy a dog tax beginning on January 1 of next year. An interesting point about the regulations is that the owner of dogs will receive on paying his tax of two rubles for the year, a metallic tally, which he is bound to affix to his dog's collar. Dogs found without this tally would be liable to capture and subsequent destruction. The tally, bearing a number, will afford ready means of identification, as is found to be the case already with cyclists, whose machines are likewise numbered and registered.

The steamship Milwaukee ran on the rocks near the mouth of the Tyne in September last while on a voyage from South Shields to New Orleans. The after part of the vessel was afloat in deep water, and it seemed an easy job to haul her off, but it was found that her bottom had been pierced forward of the bridge, and that for a length of thirty feet the rock penetrated eight feet into the hold. It being impossible to float the vessel whole, the forward part was slowly blasted off with dynamite. The bulkhead forward of the cockpit was strengthened, and after a month's work the two-thirds of the Milwaukee containing the engines, was floated and towed into port. A new fore part will be built on.

AN EMPEROR'S BREAKFAST.

The German Emperor takes for his breakfast, a small white loaf, the top of which is covered with salt, and which accordingly goes by the name of a salt bun. After this he consumes a small special kind of bun, known as "lucca eye," then some sandwiches, for which another kind of bread is required, baked until the outside is quite black.

Life's real shows costs us more than the real circus.

Newspaper Laws.

We call the special attention of Postmasters and subscribers to the following synopsis of the newspaper laws:

1. If any person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrears, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount whether it be taken from the office or not. There can be no legal discontinuance until payment is made.
2. Any person who takes a paper from the post office, whether directed to his name or another, or whether he has subscribed or not is responsible for the pay.
3. If a subscriber orders his paper to be stopped at a certain time, and the published continues to send, the subscriber is bound to pay for it if he takes it out of the post office. This proceeds upon the ground that a man must pay for what he uses.

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In the matter of good health temporary measures, while possibly successful for the moment, can never be lasting. Those in poor health soon know whether the remedy they are using is simply a passing placebo in their experience, bracing them up for the day, or something that is getting at the seat of the disease and is surely and permanently restoring.

The eyes of the world are literally fixed on South American Nervine. They are not viewing it as a nine-days' wonder, but a remedy that has cured thousands of cases of disease, and is being used by the most eminent physicians, because of its claims of perfect curative qualities cannot be gainsaid.

The great discovery of this medicine was possessed of the knowledge that the seat of all disease is the nerve centres, situated at the base of the brain. In this base he had the best potentiation and medical men of the world occupying exactly the same premises. Indeed the ordinary layman recognizes this principle long ago. Everyone knows that all disease or injury affect this part of the human system and death is almost certain. Injure the spinal cord, which is the medium of these nerve centres, and paralysis is sure to follow. Here is the first principle. The trouble with medical treatment usually, and with nearly all medicines, is that they aim simply to treat the organ that may be diseased. South American Nervine passes by the organs, and immediately applies its curative power to the nerve centres, from which the organs of the body receive their supply of nerve fluid. The nerve centres healed, and of necessity the organs which has shows the outward evidence of derangement is healed. The gastric, nervousness, impoverished blood, liver complaint, all owe their origin to a derangement of the nerve centres. Thousands bear testimony that they have been cured of these troubles, even when they have become so desperate as to baffled the skill of the most eminent physicians. South American Nervine has gone to the headquarters and cured there.

The eyes of the world have not been disappointed in the inquiry into the success of South American Nervine. People marvel. It is true, at its wonderful medical qualities, but they know beyond all question that it does even better than is claimed for it. It stands alone as the one great certain curing remedy of the nineteenth century. Who should anyone suffer distress and sickness while this remedy is practically at their hands?

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