

# THE GREY REVIEW

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## On the Farm.

PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF FARM WORK.

Common sense teaches us farmers that we must devote our time exclusively to our work on the farm or we will suffer loss writes Elias F. Brown. For instance, one farmer told me the other day that he had some extra work to look after last summer and that he was foolish enough to hire an extra man to do his farm work while he galloped down the road looking after some one else's work. Now it might appear that a person could make a fairly good thing if he earns \$40 to \$50 per month at something besides farming, when a common farm hand can be hired for \$15 to \$18 per month. The difference between \$18 and \$50 is quite a nice little sum, yet when we come to count in the extras which the \$18 man has to have and which must be supplied from the \$50 salary it equalizes things considerably. Still I do not think there is where the great difference lies.

Every true farmer has some particular method which no hired man cares to follow except while in sight of the "boss," and it sometimes happens that all the interests of the farm do not get the attention they would if the owner were doing the work himself, as was the case of the farmer alluded to at the beginning of this article. This farmer said he tried his best to teach the man that was doing his work how to cultivate corn, but it was practically out of the question. He simply went over the field as a machine would, regardless of the requirements of the soil. As a result a shrinkage of 15 bushels per acre was experienced. A machine man on the farm is worse than an unruly animal, for they, the animals, can be tied down, with the assurance that they will come to time, but with the other fellow nothing can be done. Corn, like all other crops in one respect, has to be worked from the very beginning to get best results. Some places in the field may require deep cultivation, while others may require shallow, and if a man is sobered in something else that he does not notice this difference in these places he is not on the road to successful farming. Thus it may be easily seen that, usually speaking, if a man understands the requirements of his farm it would surely pay him as well, if not better, to stay at home and do his own work, or take the place of the \$18 man instead of accepting \$50 a month elsewhere.

**WARM THE SLOPS IN WINTER.**  
For convenience purchase an oil barrel, 50 gals size, saw one end off eight inches from top, fasten cap on with strong hinge, so it can be opened and shut at will. To prevent freezing, fix a box around the barrel, pack well with sawdust or chaffy manure. In bitter cold weather, hang a lantern in the barrel by inserting a small hook in the middle of cap, also make a few gimlet holes for ventilation.

If the hog could take its choice of warm or cold slop in low mercury weather, it would very readily, through its instinct, pick out the warm. To winter swine as cheaply as possible, it is necessary to warm the ration in cold weather. This can very easily be done by placing three or four pans of water in the wash boiler and heating on the kitchen fire after the cooking is done. In this way there will be no extra expense. This hot water poured onto other compounds in the barrel will warm slops ration enough for a goodly number of hogs. Warm pig house and plenty of dry bedding are also necessary for winter economy. Think of the vast amount of feed it will take, if the hog must sleep in the open air, with poorly arranged shelter, and drink its slops at 33 degrees. Warm the slops and save the feed.

**A CHEAP HOG SHELTER.**  
Comparatively few farms have good, warm and dry shelter for hogs in winter. Nearly every farm has shelter of some kind, but many hog houses are so open and exposed to the weather and cold drafts particularly, that the hogs are uncomfortable and consequently unprofitable. A shelter for 25 or 30 head can be made very cheaply of straw and rails. It answers the purpose very well and in the saving of feed and the comfort of hogs will many times repay its cost, which is only the labor necessary to erect it.

A double pen, one inside the other, is built of fence rails, two rail-lengths long and one wide, and 3 or 4 ft. high. The space between the two pens, 12 or 15 in. is filled with straw and well tramped. Other rails are laid across on top. On these the straw roof is placed. The straw is dampened, so that it will pack well. It is built well out over the sides of the pen, which should stand on dry ground. The door on the leeward side usually needs no protection. Nothing more is necessary except an occasional fresh bed of straw.

**SUCCESS WITH CEMENT.**  
Before putting down a cement floor be sure that the building is where it is always to stand, for the floor cannot be removed says M. C. Thomas. Use the very best material. Do not use any of the cheap grades of cement. I prefer the Portland above all others, as cold or heat does not affect it. To begin, put down a layer of clean gravel six inches deep, slightly moistened and tamped down as firmly as possible. After this is done, commence on the floor. This should be laid in sections about three feet wide, so that a person can trowel across them. Prepare a scantling six inches wide and two inches thick. Begin on one side of the barn and for a horse stall give it one-half inch fall from manger to

hind feet. Stake and level the scantling, then apply the concrete, which is made by using six parts of clean, sharp gravel and one part cement, thoroughly mixed and just dampened enough to pack well. Wheel this in and have it five inches thick when it is thoroughly tamped. The tamping must be thoroughly done.

Now put on the top coat, which should be one inch thick, and is made of two parts of sharp, clean sand and one part cement, thoroughly mixed and tempered and of the right consistency to spread nicely. In smoothing it off, use a straight edge at first, and after it has commenced to dry, use a trowel to give it a smooth, glossy appearance. In putting on the top, smooth it off with as little work as possible, as too much work will cause the water and sand to come to the surface, making a bad job. If you wish to corrugate it, use a beveled board and strike it gently with a hatchet. After this remove the scantling and proceed as before. For a cow stable or hog house, the concrete need not be over three inches thick and the top coat one-half inch thick, and for a chicken house, still less. After the floor is laid, keep everything off until it thoroughly sets and in ten days or two weeks it will be ready for any kind of stock.

## GERMANY'S BIG FEASTS.

Two Great Festivals Which Will Occupy the National Mind This Month.

Within a few days will be celebrated in the Hall of the Knights in the Imperial Palace of Berlin the great annual festival of the Order of the Black Eagle. This, the greatest of all Prussian orders, which takes cosmopolitan rank as one of the eight great orders of the world, was instituted by Frederick, Elector of Brandenburg, on January 17, 1701, the eve of his coronation as the first King of Prussia. Originally the number of knights was limited to thirty Prussians, not including sovereigns and princes of the royal house. In 1847 King Frederick William decreed that foreign princes of the blood and distinguished men of all nations might be knighted. To-day almost all princes of great reigning houses in Europe are members of the order.

At the annual festival the Chapter of the Black Eagle is solemnly assembled, and those knights who have been admitted during the preceding year are officially received.

Full dress is required of all knights, the military wearing white trousers and stripes, the civilians white knee breeches, white stockings and white shoes. Both military and civil knights will wear the red velvet mantle of the order over the full dress, and over the mantle the collar of the order. The new knights will wear only the ribbon of the order.

**THE EMPEROR, HIMSELF,** attired in the mantle of the order, receives the guests in the wainscoted room next to the royal apartment. Then all file out in solemn procession to the Hall of the Knights. Here on a platform covered with red velvet stand eight trumpeters of the Horse Guards. They are dressed in uniforms of the time of Frederick I. Eight more trumpeters, similarly attired, known as the "Silver Choir," stand on another platform.

The Emperor mounts the steps of the throne and stands there with uncovered head, while the trumpeters on the red platform execute a fanfare, which is caught up and echoed by the trumpeters of the Silver Choir.

Then the knights who are to be invested are brought up in succession to the throne, each accompanied by two old knights, who act as sponsors. They are made knight in cloth in the mantle of the order. The Emperor himself invests him with the collar, then consecrates and embraces him, and dismisses him to receive the salutations and handshakings of all the old knights. A formal banquet winds up the occasion.

Three days later will follow the official reception of minor orders of the German Empire. This is known as the Ordensfest, or Feast of Orders. On this day all who during the preceding year have received any sort of decoration from the German Emperor, the only source of such honors, are invited to the Imperial Palace. From one to two thousand persons are thus brought together, ranging from the select few who have been decorated with the Order of the Black Eagle to the hundreds who have received but the simplest of decorations.

The guests assemble in the ante-rooms of the palace. Here the president of the General Commission of the order reads OUT THE LISTS of the newly decorated and distributes the respective insignia. The ladies in the meanwhile assemble in a room set apart for them and receive from the Emperor's first lady in waiting the Order of Louise.

Then all the guests, male and female, file into the chapel, where they are joined by the Emperor and Empress and the great court officials. The length of the sermon in the chapel is fully compensated for by the excellence of the subsequent dinner in the great White Hall. The guests are seated at a series of tables, each of which is set apart for one particular grade, according to the decoration conferred. Hence for the nonce all difference of social rank are forgotten. The staff officers of the government or the Privy Councillor may be seated next to the policeman or the lackey, the General beside the simple artisan.

The Emperor presides at the banquet and at its close proposes the health of the newly decorated. Then the guests receive cornucopias, which they may fill with fruits or sugar-plums to take home to their relations or children.

Wu Ting-fang, Chinese Minister at Washington, is recovering from his first experience of Caucasian grip, and will soon be able to resume his regular duties.

## A PERILOUS SWIM.

The Brave Deed of Lieut. Howell in the Sierra Leone Uprising.

This thrilling incident of the native uprising in Sierra Leone is described by a correspondent of the London Standard.

At Rotofunk, a mission station some fifty-five miles from the coast, four of the white missionaries had been literally hacked to pieces by the natives. It was said, however, that Mrs. Kane, the wife of the superintendent of the mission, had succeeded in escaping into the bush.

With the hope of rescuing her, a force was despatched from Freetown, with orders to push through to Rotofunk without delay. On arriving at the Ribbi River, however, the force found that the natives had collected at Mabang, a town on the opposite bank, and had withdrawn all canoes and boats. As the river is over one hundred and fifty yards broad and six fathoms deep, a serious obstacle presented itself.

The only officer who knew this part of the country was Lieut. W. R. Howell, of the 1st Glamorgan Volunteer Artillery, a member of an old Cornish family, who had raised a force of volunteers to swim across the river and bring back as many canoes as possible, but there was no response, as not only would the swimmers be exposed to the full fire of the enemy, but the river was known to swarm with alligators.

At length Lieutenant Howell, in spite of the protestations of his fellow-officers, resolved to make the attempt himself. The enemy, evidently seeing what he was about to do, assembled in force on the opposite bank, but were driven back some distance and kept at bay by the firing of the British volunteers over Lieutenant Howell's head.

When the lieutenant had just reached midstream and was in the full current, he was seen to swing round rapidly on his back, his leg had been seized by an alligator. It was only by swinging sharply round that he succeeded in freeing himself, but even so his thigh had been torn and lacerated in a shocking manner.

Notwithstanding this injury and the work of the enemy's guns, the gallant officer continued his perilous journey, and at length reached the opposite bank, only to find that his errand was fruitless, as all the boats and canoes had been destroyed.

For more than half an hour he continued his search, but finding the enemy again pressing him, and feeling weak from loss of blood, he was compelled to take to the river again, and got back in safety.

## ENGLAND'S CHIEF RISK.

Would He Be Exposed to Famine If Her Food Supply Were Cut Off?

England in time of war would be secure against foreign invasion. Not until her navy was destroyed could any military force be landed on her shores, and with the most powerful afloat and the best war-vessels of every class she could defy any Continental nation.

Her chief risk would be a failure of food supplies. Her most deadly foe would be starvation. There is never more than ten weeks' supply of wheat in the United Kingdom. If the stock of foreign food were cut off, bread and meat would rise in price, and the masses of workers would be exposed to the horrors of famine.

This is England's great source of danger in war-time. Against it there can be no stronger safeguard than the maintenance of friendly relations with America, whence the bulk of her imports of food is drawn. With her fleets in command of the seas, and with her main base of supplies secured by Anglo-American good feeling, England is well-nigh invulnerable against attack.

From this point of view England's defensive resources have been greatly strengthened by the improved relations now existing with America. No alliance with any Continental power would secure her against famine in time of war. America alone is able to do this and to arm England with resources for defying any European coalition.

There are other and better motives than self-interest for strengthening the bonds between the two branches of the English-speaking race. Yet the fact that each can be helpful to the other, and protect it from danger and injury, tends to bring them together in close fellowship. United they will stand, and as Mr. Gladstone once said, the world will belong to them.

**BLEW TOP OF HIS HEAD OFF.**  
Manitoulin Man Takes His Life in a Sensational Way.

A despatch from Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island, says:—A most desperate case of suicide is reported from Cockburn Island, the victim being a farmer named George Schmidt. It appears that Schmidt, who had been ill for several months, while in a fit of despondency, blew the top of his head off with the discharge from a shot gun. The suicide placed the muzzle of the gun in his mouth and connected the trigger by a contrivance made of strong cord. When the body was discovered the dead man's face was unrecognizable.

## Newspaper Laws.

We call the special attention of Postmaster 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 publisher continues to send, the subscriber is bound to pay for it if he takes it out of the post office. This proceeds upon he ground that a man must pay for what he uses.

## JAKE KRESS

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