

HOME AND THE FARM.

A DEPARTMENT MADE UP FOR
OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

Some New Appliances for the Farmer—Well Selected Suggestions for the Housewife, the Stockman, the Dairymen, the Poulterer, and the Horticulturist—Notes.

THE FARM.

Second Crop.

HERE are three crops that can be grown as second crops. We might make a fourth by sowing millet, but usually this would be an uncertain crop as it does not make a good start to grow if the weather is too hot and dry, and this is an important item with this crop. But some corn for fodder, buckwheat, and turnips can very often be sown after a crop of wheat or oats have been harvested, and in this way a very fair amount of feed secured.

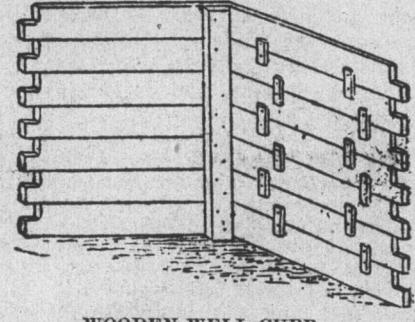
It is quite an item in doing this to have the soil reasonably rich, and then, if from any cause there is a prospect of a short supply of feed, an increased supply can be secured, while to a very considerable extent these are quick-growing crops, and the soil ought to be reasonably rich to maintain this growth. With the soil thoroughly prepared in a good condition and reasonably rich, a quick germination and a good start to grow can be secured. Any of these can, with anything like fair conditions, be made to yield a large amount of feed. This is especially the case with sweet corn and turnips. Buckwheat makes an excellent feed, but usually does not yield an extra large crop.

All can be grown without cultivating. The corn ought to be sown in drills while the turnips and buckwheat can be sown broadcast and covered by harrowing thoroughly. In a very dry season such a plan would not be feasible. There should at least be sufficient moisture in the soil to induce a good germination of the seed and a chance to grow. After the plants get started, growing sufficiently to shade the soil thoroughly, they will usually be able to make a fair growth even if the weather continues dry, not as good of course as would be made if the weather was more favorable, but sometimes sufficient to add considerably to the supply of feed if it is sometimes.

If this plan is attempted preparation should be made to do this work as soon as possible after the crops are harvested and stacked. Turnips can be deferred the latest of all, as it is possible to secure a very fair crop of turnips sown even as late as the 10th of August. Of course with any crop attempted to be grown at this time it cannot be considered as certain as those planted in the spring or fall.—*Journal of Agriculture*.

Wooden Well-Curbing.

In sections of the country where stones or brick cannot be obtained the wells are curbed up with boards or timber, and this is an important operation where wells are sunk through sand or friable soil liable to cave in. Herewith is illustrated a method of curbing as fast as the well is deepened. It not only serves as the permanent wall but prevents trouble and accidents from caving in while the



WOODEN WELL CURB.

laborers are at work making the well. Having decided on the diameter of the well, cut boards of uniform length (usually about four feet) cutting or notching in each end as shown in the engraving. Dig the well square, placing in the boards upon all four sides; as it is deepened two short strips are nailed over each crack to hold the boards in place. After water is reached, or at any time, corner pieces are firmly nailed at each angle to hold the well firmly and solid, when the short strips may be removed. It is also well to make a ladder, by simply nailing to one of the corner pieces strips one foot apart. They will be one inch from the curb and make a firm and secure hold for both hands and feet in making the ascent and descent.—*American Agriculturist*.

A Convenient Halter.

The small conveniences about the farm make work much more agreeable.

Moreover, a little labor saved in each one of the hundred bits of work that come up in the course of a day makes a large amount in the aggregate. The halter shown in the illustration is much more readily adjusted, since in the old-fashioned halter the mane

ADJUSTABLE HALTER. and foretop are constantly becoming entangled when this headgear is being arranged. To remove the one illustrated, it is only necessary to unbuckle the strap, when the whole falls to the floor. Again, it is specially convenient to carry upon the road, since it can be adjusted over the bridle by lengthening the strap when buckling. When a halter is used in this way the rope should be passed through the bit-ring, giving much greater control over a horse if he should become frightened while standing at the hitching-post. The snap and rings are a convenient arrangement for lengthening or shortening the amount of rope.—*American Agriculturist*.

THE STOCK-RANCH.

Cattle Breeding. Mr. W. D. Rutherford, a successful breeder of Jersey cattle, spoke in substance as below, at a meeting of the Farmers' Institute, in Canton, N. Y.:

It is the live stock that keeps up the fertility of our farms, and upon the quality of the stock depends the margin of

profit and loss. Every farmer should have a purpose and a system in breeding; yet carelessness and aimless breeding is the rule with too many farmers. Test your cows and weed out all below the profit line. If you are breeding for butter, use a bull from an extra butter cow of a butter breed. Avoid in-breeding; it tends to delicacy and enfeebled constitution, while by using a bull from another family, possessing the butter qualities in the same degree, you retain the butter tendency and increase the capacity by adding vigor to the offspring.

In selecting breeding stock see that the dam is individually good; that the sire has an unbroken pedigree and is of good strain, and especially that he has a good dam. It is an old saying that "the bull is half the herd." In my own experience I find the influence of the dam on the offspring to be greater than that of the sire.

You often hear it said that "like begets like." As a rule this is true; yet it is on the deviation from this rule that our hopes depend. Some of the offspring will be better than their progenitors; others not so good. Breed only from the best. If you breed from a good dam, and a sire whose dam is good, you have a strong point in breeding. Do not make the mistake of trying to breed for the greatest yield of milk, butter, cheese and beef in the same animal. Breed for a purpose. There is no such thing as a general purpose cow, horse or hen. The cow that produces 900 lb. of butter in a year makes a very modest showing in milk, and the horse that can trot a mile in 2:10 would make a very poor showing at the plow.

Mr. Rutherford gave an instance where a neighboring farmer, by breeding to good Jersey bulls for fifteen years, had increased the butter product of his dairy over one hundred pounds per cow, and received last year \$375 more for butter from seventeen cows and heifers than his neighbor did from twenty-nine common cows.

THE DAIRY.

Cleanliness in the Dairy. The following suggestions are taken from an article in the Swedish dairy paper, *Nordisk Mejeri-Tidning*, translated for and published in the *Country Gentleman*:

Careful cleanliness in milking is of the greatest importance, and ought to be promoted by all means. If there is not received a clean, fresh, and good-tasting milk the product cannot be sold at a satisfactory price. The public has so long been accustomed to fine butter and cheese, and to pay for these such a price, that this should constitute an inducement to production of the best goods, even to the observance of the smallest details.

To secure pure milk it is necessary to furnish a dry bed, good care and fresh air in the stable. On the dressing and attention of milch cattle depend in a high degree their product.

With care as to a clean and dry stall, the cows ought also to be refreshed daily by combing and brushing. All visible dirt ought quickly to be removed, and the cow's whole body should be clean and glistening. Washing in general, particularly of the udder, is not to be recommended, considering a complete washing must be undertaken with the greatest prudence, and one so difficult should always be thoroughly performed.

A badly performed washing is rather a damage than a benefit. When the udder or teats are very dirty, and affected with sores, washing can be recommended, and ought to be done with lukewarm water and some soap. Care should be observed that the washed parts are afterward well dried, and that the animal is not exposed to a draft. In ordinary cases the udder can be most easily kept clean with a soft brush, or by rubbing with a straw brush.

Fresh air is secured in the stable by means of an air shaft, as well as by opening the windows and ventilators in the walk. Avoid, however, exposing the animals to any strong draft. The windows in most stables lie so low that the animals are directly exposed to such a draft. Under such circumstances prudence is required in airing the stable. Hair-cloth windows are recommended, through which fresh air, without any particular draft, can be secured through the warmer months.

It is a great influence on a regular and good product to keep an even temperature in the stable. This should be kept between 54 degrees and 59 degrees F. A constant change in temperature results in a diminished product from the animals. If it is too cold, then too much feed is required to furnish the animal heat; if too warm, the respiration is too great—in both cases at the cost of the product. So far as possible ought the temperature in the stable to be regulated by a thermometer and constantly kept there.

The arrangement of the stable ought to be such that the animals are not crowded. There should be no stall partitions; without these the animals secure so much more freedom, and have some liberty when they lie down. By this means they may, as far as possible, avoid lying in the dirt.

At milking the following points are observed:

1. All milk vessels, which are best made of tinned iron, must be constantly kept carefully clean.

2. The milking should be performed in a neat dress and with clean hands, for which latter object a pail with warm water and a towel ought to be kept convenient.

3. Before commencing to milk, remove carefully all dirt from the udder and neighboring parts.

If there is left any dirt on the teats it is incorporated so thoroughly in the milk during milking that neither strainer nor strainer-cloth can remove it from the milk. No matter to what extent the milk in this manner may be dirtied, the dirt is removed at the separating and remains in the grease in the separator. The grease remaining in the separator being more or less black shows whether the milking has been performed in a more or less cleanly manner. Immediately after milking strain the milk through a fine cloth strainer. Pay attention that frequently during the process of milking the strainer becomes thoroughly washed. Should this not be done, the constant pouring of milk on the accumulated dirt reduces it to such a degree of fineness that no additional straining can remove it.

THE POULTRY-YARD.

Breeds and Incubators. In the great range of climate and temperature in this country, we can find climatic conditions similar to those from whence certain breeds were imported, and where their peculiar excellence was developed either as meat or as egg-producers. We cannot expect the Leghorn, which comes from Italy, to lay as well in

TRUSTS IN GLASSWARE.

MANUFACTURERS COMBINING INTO TRUSTS.

They Want All the Profits of McKinleyism—Highly Protected Already, McKinley Gave Them Still Higher Protection—Profits of the Business.

A dispatch from Findlay, Ohio, has recently appeared in the papers as follows:

"The Western Flint Bottle Association, comprising thirty-seven factories, at a meeting last night decided to close their works on June 1 instead of July 1 as heretofore. This is for the purpose of maintaining prices and compelling jobbers to come to the manufacturers' terms."

This is one of the trusts in the glass business. Another is the trust of the manufacturers of table glassware, which was started only a month or two ago, and which is now completing its organization. The McKinley law made heavy increases in the duties on glassware, and now the trusts are making haste to get all they can out of the advantage that McKinley has given them.

At this rate, just before the adjournment of Congress a resolution was passed by the Senate authorizing the Finance Committee to collect evidence as to the effect of the new tariff law. In view of the violent attacks upon the McKinley law, they desire some figures gotten together by its friends with a view to showing that the effects of the law have been good, and that a high tariff deserves to be perpetuated as the support of our industrial system.

In order to secure this evidence the Finance Committee is authorized to sit where and when it pleases, and it is governed by no restrictions as to hearing both sides and permitting the cross examination of witnesses. The understanding is that there will not be so many hearings as there will be letters sent to the right persons to obtain facts bearing on the effect of the new tariff.

Price lists will be sought and statements as to wages paid under the old tariff and the new, and as to the development of old plants and the establishment of new ones.

The protectionist majority of this committee is partisan enough to warrant the belief that it will make a report in which McKinleyism will be whitewashed and made to appear as a thing of beauty.

But McKinleyism has been emphatically condemned by the people; and it is too late in the day to try to galvanize the corse into a semblance of life again.

The high duties on lead in connection with those upon linseed oil, both of which products are in the control of trusts, have killed our once flourishing trade with foreign countries in paints. Shall they be allowed to do the same with the only foreign trade which we have in all our glass industries—the export of glass-ware?

To Whitewash McKinleyism.

It is said that the high protectionists of the United States Senate are not exactly pleased with the work of Labor Commissioner Carroll D. Wright. They do not deny his conscientious devotion to the truth, it is said, but they think that some of his recent investigations have not taken just the best turn for the high tariff cause. It is doubtless the Commissioner's recent publication of his investigations into the cost of producing iron and steel in the United States and in Europe that has given the protectionist magnates dissatisfaction.

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