

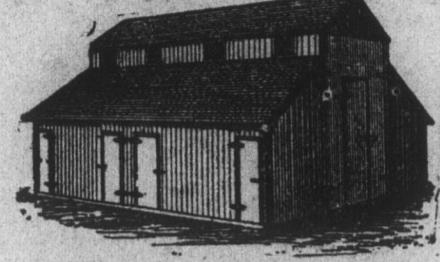
AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How to Keep Sweet Potatoes—The Care of Tulips—Convenient Hoisting Apparatus—Caring for the Corn Crop—A Farmer and Marker, Etc.

Substantial House for Swine.

As many farmers have requested a description of my hog-house, I will answer the request through the American Agriculturist, writes A. H. Sheldon. The house is built for eight brood sows in the spring, or fifty pigs

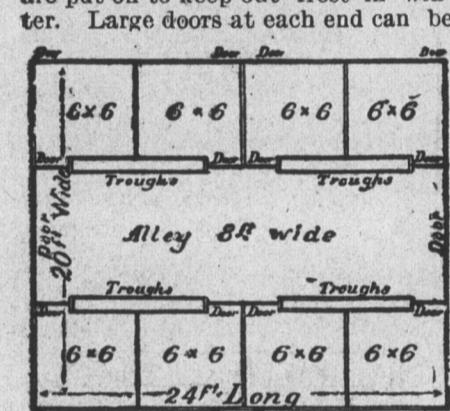


PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF PIGGY.

In the fall, and furnishes plenty of room for this number. The size is twenty feet wide by twenty-four feet long. The pens are each six feet square, making the alley through the center eight feet wide, giving plenty of room to drive a load of corn under cover of the roof, to unload in the fall. Four of these pens are on each side, and one swill trough, eight feet long, answers for two pens. Over each trough is placed a swinging door three by eight feet so that any litter which may be rooted into them can be easily cleaned out, and the pigs can also be shut back until the swill is poured into the troughs, a great advantage as any feeder knows.

There are little doors from each pen into the alley, also into the yards on the sides of the house. These yards should have a board floor, unless the ground is very sandy and well drained. A small pen near a hog-house becomes a mortar bed, after every rain, and the object of the small yards outside is to give early pigs sunshine and more chance for exercise than a six by six pen affords. Over each pen under the upper roof is a small window to admit air and light. This slides on the scantling which supports the lower roof.

The outside posts are only four feet high, and the center posts eight feet. The roof is board and shingled. The house is inclosed with No. 4 boards, then paper and drop-siding are put on to keep out frost in winter. Large doors at each end can be



GROUND PLAN OF PIGGY.

When occasion requires, but for every day use a small door, thirty by seventy-eight inches is placed at either end. A well and pump should be placed where most convenient so that no delay will occur when feeding time comes. There is but little trouble to provide places for grain and meal, but a bountiful supply of water is quite an important and often neglected. The cost of the house with lumber at twenty dollars per thousand, and shingles at three and one-half dollars about one hundred dollars. Several loads or sand or gravel may be profitably dumped into the pigyards each year.

Keeping Sweet Potatoes.

Regard must be had to the proper growing and handling of sweet potatoes in order to insure success in their keeping. They should be grown on soil suited to them, and early enough to fully mature in season, and when harvested handled without bruising. They should be planted early enough to mature before frost for tubers of frost bitten vines are doubtful keepers. Dig them when the ground is dry, if possible, that they may be dry and clean. Then lay them in a dark, cool room, or at once store them away in a frost-proof cellar or storehouse. The best manner to store them here is to put them in broad, shallow boxes (shelves will do). These may be placed one above another with a small space between them to give better ventilation. A light coating of dry sand or earth, will add something to their preservation, as it will serve to keep the potatoes at a more uniform temperature, and absorb the moisture arising from them. The place of storage should be dry and have a uniform temperature, and that at about 35 or 40 degrees. Potatoes which have fully matured are thus stored in shallow layers, and kept fairly above frost and moisture will seldom fail to keep well.

Feeding Corn for the Best Profit.

I am convinced that it pays, especially when steamed, to grind corn and cob for cattle, writes an experienced live stock and dairy man. I am not quite clear whether corn or oats is best for sheep; I know corn is good. For store sheep, two fair feeds of it daily with plenty of good straw are sufficient; for fatters, hay with three feeds of the mixed meal, and dry bran with plenty of water. For cows—not using ensilage—I prefer cut and steamed cornstalks, with corn meal and bran, half by weight, liberally sprinkled on. In the absence of the steamer, I put on the cut stalks, slightly moistened, a regular ration of corn meal; some prefer it put on dry. For fattening steers I prefer the scalded fodder plentifully basted with corn and oat meal. The meal will do well enough with hay and no doubt with ensilage. Corn thus fed, with close care, I have found to work wonders. Colts—except fillies—will keep well on coarse fodder with a little corn twice a day.

Securing the Corn Crop.

Corn should be cut for fodder as soon as the kernels begin to glaze on most of the larger ears. At this time if no frosts have occurred the leaves are mostly green, and if put in stocks upon level surroundings let the

stockman study well his conditions as to grasses, grains, soil, climate, markets, etc., and he is not apt to make a mistake in the choice of breeds.—Nebraska Farmer.

Treatment of the Garden.

It is possible all the weeds, grass and other stuff should be burned off the garden, and it should also be plowed late in the fall if possible. If this is done there is very little danger from cut worms and similar pests the following year, and a great many things can be sown in the spring that will have to wait until very late if the ground has to be plowed in the spring. Above all things the garden spot must be rich. The best manure and a great deal of it will be needed if there is to be a good garden, and pay for the work and care needed. A half acre of a good garden is worth ten acres of corn, and requires about the same amount of work.

Sheep Shearings.

V-SHAPED troughs are best for feeding grain.

A LAMB need not be despised because it is small.

SHEEP may be made the gleaners of the farm; the savers of waste. Give sheep plenty of water and salt and they will soon clean a field.

TO RAISE early lambs for market the ewes must be of good healthy stock.

In raising early lambs is to be undertaken select out the breeding ewes in good season.

SOME breeders claim that early lambs grow faster, are healthier, and make larger sheep than late ones.

One advantage with sheep is that properly managed they eat their food cleaner than horses or cattle.

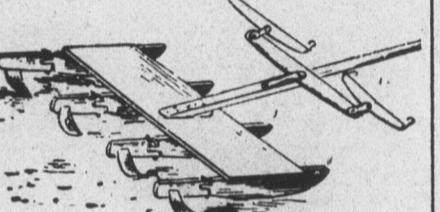
GENERALLY with wool shipped to market it requires a larger time to get returns than with almost any other farm product.

Water-Troughs.

The best water-troughs for poultry are of wood, the usual shape, and made to hold a bucketful of water. The trough should be placed under a tree, or in some shady place. The objection to fountains is the tedious work of filling them. Troughs become slimy after awhile, but may easily be washed with soap-suds and an old broom. It costs but a small sum to make a trough, hence a new one should be made every year. The trough should be filled every morning, but should be rinsed well before filling.

A Handy Tool.

The back figure shows a piece of plank with cultivator tooth inserted. When you want furrows made, bolt one of these behind each runner.



FURROW AND MARKER.

Run a board across the rear ends of each runner and bolt it to each attachment to keep them down and in a line. When using it, lay a board from the main plank to the rear board and stand on it. The further back you stand the deeper the marker goes. I have used this for a number of years and pronounce it a regular short cut marker and furrower.—Murphy, in Practical Farmer.

Turnips for Poultry.

A mess of turnips makes an excellent meal for poultry in the winter season, and especially for ducks and geese. They may also be used during the fall. Add a small quantity of bran and ground oats to the turnips and give the hens all they will eat, as such food is bulky, and not so liable to fatten them quickly as is the case when grain is fed exclusively.

Hints to Housekeepers.

TO PREVENT oil from oozing over the top of the burner, turn the wick down after the light is out.

At night, after a day's traveling, rub the face thoroughly with vaseline or cold cream. The grease will prove a more effective cleaner than soap and water.

The thimble was first called the "thumb bell," because it was used on the thumb instead of the finger, as at present. The word soon evolved into thimble. The word thimble is comparatively modern.

AN INGENUOUS female has hit upon the idea of a "dress album," in which cuttings of every gown belonging to its owner are to be chronologically arranged under the dates on which they were purchased.

STRAWBERRIES are so called from the fact that they were anciently brought to market strung upon straws. Raspberries are also called from the peculiar rasping roughness of their leaves. Raspberries originally.

THERE is nothing more useful about the kitchen than sal soda. It will, dissolved in a little water, remove grease from anything, and there is nothing like it for cleaning hair brushes, which, by the way, should be cleaned more frequently than they are.

IT is comparatively easy to exterminate black ants. The little red ants are, however, very hard to get rid of. A little powdered hellebore sprinkled around at night will as a rule quickly exterminate them. Care must be taken in using the hellebore, and in brushing it away in the morning, as it is poisonous. Powdered sulphur will frequently answer the purpose.

Who Should Bow First.

New York society, so it is written, has decided that when a gentleman and lady meet on the street, the one who first sees the other should bow. The old rule, that the gentleman should wait for the recognition of the lady, is declared obsolete. The lady still retains the privilege of not noticing the gentleman if she feels so inclined, that is, after he has taken off his hat, she may cut him if she wants to. Well, perhaps it is the best plan. Under the old usage the gentleman could never be satisfied when a lady passed him without recognition whether she intended a cut or merely did not see him. By the improvement he will be left in no sort of doubt.—The Housekeeper.

Choice of Breeds.

The man who goes out hunting for the best breeds of live stock without any references whatever to his environments is hardly up to snuff. The best breed is largely such simply because it is best suited to some particular purpose, and whether or not that purpose is well filled depends

upon the surroundings. Let the

ALL FOR CLEVELAND.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUBS HEAR HIM.

The Ex-President Tells a Vast Throng in the Academy of Music the Principles Which Underlie His Campaign—Other Proceedings.

Grover Spoke Nobly.

It was a mammoth Cleveland meeting, the quadrennial convention of Democratic clubs that met in the Academy of Music, in New York. The great gathering cheered the mention of the ex-President's name in a manner which showed that the ebullition of enthusiasm came from the heart. A street parade of colorfully proportioned floats, and then the throngs moved toward the great objective point—the Academy of Music. The delegates were in possession of 4,000 badges, and no effort whatever was made to prevent them from speaking at the conclusion of Weaver's speech.

WEAVER'S SPEECH.

He says: "According to his own admission, Gen. Weaver received a respectful hearing at Waycross and Columbus. At Albany his speech was listened to by several hundred people, and no effort whatever was made to prevent them from speaking at the conclusion of the speech."

He adds: "The only possible foundation for the greatly exaggerated egg story spread broadcast by Gen. Weaver and Mrs. Lease is that they do great injustice, not only to the Negroes but to the people of the State."

He says: "The economic evils are not conducive to successful mental investigation. Otherwise school children would be favored with constant oratorical and philosophical training."

The less the people shout the more they think, and the more they think the more emphatic will be the vote by which they declare against the existing order of things. They declared their opinion upon national questions two years ago and the feeling then manifested against the multiplied evils of McKinleyism has been greatly intensified through lessons of bitter experience and a broader knowledge of the great economic problem."

BOMBSHELL FOR THE G. O. P.

Ex-Attorney General Wayne MacVeagh Comes Out Boldly for Grover Cleveland.

Ex-Attorney General Wayne MacVeagh, who held office under Garfield, has written a letter to John W. Carter, secretary of the Massachusetts Reform Club, in which he announces that he will vote for Grover Cleveland. The letter says in part:

"As both parties have presented unexceptionable candidates there is no reason why the differences which exist upon questions of public policy should be discussed otherwise than in good humor and with entire respect for each other's opinions."

Gresham for Cleveland.

JUDGE GRESHAM is one of the few men wearing the Republican label during recent years who have succeeded in retaining the respect and confidence of all the people. The fact that he can no longer consent to remain identified with the party of plutocracy will determine whether he will be a great help to the Democrats of Illinois.

JUDGE GRESHAM

has authorized the

announcement that he will vote for Cleveland, and it is probable that before the campaign is over he will make some speeches in his behalf. If Harrison had any chances of carrying Indiana this would end them, and it will be a great help to the Democrats of Illinois.

—Quincy Herald.

JUDGE GRESHAM comes to the Democratic party because he believes in tariff reform, a cause once supported by the Republican party, until it passed four years ago as a measure to protect the interests of the country.

In his Philadelphia speech the Governor said:

"If Congress should happen to be

Democratic, then I want Benjamin Harrison President. He believes in sound

protection.

Truth About the Tariff.

Passing over the force bill with a reference to the earnest and widespread opposition thereto, and to the advocacy

two years ago of the measure by President Harrison, General MacVeagh takes up the tariff, of which he says:

"The economic evils, however great,

of the McKinley bill and the unreasonable system of protection it represents are of far less importance, to my mind, than the moral evils which follow in their wake. In deciding for what purposes the masses of the people may properly be taxed, it is not to be forgotten that the taxes have a wonderful capacity for filtering through intervening obstacles till they reach the bowed back of toil and resting there, and therefore, the giving of bounties, under any form of taxation, is mainly the giving away of the wages of labor. The sad truth that the curse of the poor is their poverty, is illustrated in nothing more clearly than in the undue share they suffer of the burdens of taxation."

"But even such inequality and injustice are the least of its evils, for while such a system endures political corruption is absolutely sure to increase, as such a system not only invites but it requires the corrupt use of money both at the polls and in Congress.

In Regard to Silver.

"The Republican party ought to be an honest-money party, and it would be if it could, but while it demands increased bounties for its favorite manufacturers, it would also increase increased bounties to the silver producers, as the votes they control were probably necessary to the passage of the McKinley bill. The poison of a debased currency is making itself daily more and more felt in every channel of business and finance, and it is inevitably driving gold out of the country and leading us to all the evils of a fluctuating and therefore dishonest currency based upon silver alone."

"If Congress was to levy taxes upon certain classes of manufacturers, it was very natural that the pension agents should also join hands to increase their fees by an indiscriminate granting of pensions. The result is that nearly a generation after the close of the war there is a steady increase of the vast sums passing through the pension agents' hands, until now the total amount staggers belief and has become of itself a very serious burden upon the treasury. Surely there is neither reason nor justice in legislation which destroys all distinction between the discharge of duty and the shirking of it, between loyal service and desertion of the colors, between wounds received in battle, and diseases contracted in the pursuits of peace."

Immigration Abuses.

There is still another great and increasing evil traceable, in his opinion, to the maintenance of an excessive tariff since the war and the constant meddling with it to make it higher, and that is the bringing to our shores of the vast swarms of undesirable immigrants. Just as the duties upon imported merchandise have been increased, so has the grade of imported labor been lowered.

As the Republican party is now definitely committed to the policy of taxing the people for the purpose of giving bounties to such persons or interests as can secure the necessary votes in Congress, so the Democratic party is now definitely committed to the policy of restricting taxation to the needs of the Government for public purposes alone.

Gen. MacVeagh is convinced that the good cause in which he is interested cannot hope for success until the avowed policy of the Republican party on this subject is overthrown. Until then the right of each State to control its own borders will not be secured, though the prospect of our enjoying the single and stable standard of value which other civilized and commercial nations possess, and of placing either our pension system or the regulation of immigration upon just and proper basis; the purification of our politics will continue the "iridescent dream" which high Republican authority has declared it must always remain, and any pretended reform of the civil service must prove a delusion and a snare.

Even ballot reform must share the same fate of betrayal in the house of its pretended friends. All these good causes are, in the very nature of things, the relentless foes of a system of government by bounties to favored interests, and such a system is their relentless foe.

How Famous Rulers Died.

KING DAVID died of old age.

LOUIS XVI. died on the scaffold.

RICHARD III. was killed in battle.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN was assassinated.

JAMES A. GARFIELD was assassinated.

CHARLES I. of England was beheaded.

LOUIS V. was poisoned by his queen.

MUSTAPHA II. was strangled in prison.

MILLARD FILLMORE died of paralysis at 74.

ANDREW JOHNSON died of paralysis at 67.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR died of apoplexy at 56.

ATILLA the Hun died in a drunken spree.

LOUIS I. died of fever during a campaign.

DARIUS CODOMANUS was killed in battle.

JAMES II. died in exile of gluttonous habits.

ACHMIR III. was strangled by his guards.