

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

TOPICS OF INEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

How to Construct a Wire Suspension Foot Bridge—Selecting and Preserving Seed Corn—To Cure "Thumps" in Pigs—General Farm Notes.

A Suspension Foot Bridge.

Foot bridges, in both mountainous and nearly level regions, across streams from ten to one hundred feet in width, would often be a great convenience and save going around to cross on some public bridge. Since wire has become so plentiful and cheap there is no great difficulty in having foot bridges across almost any



WIRE SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

stream less than one hundred feet in width. Posts are set firmly in the ground from four to ten feet back from the margin of the stream, as shown in the illustration, from a sketch by L. D. Snook. Against these posts is placed a strong piece of timber of some durable wood, around which are firmly secured the ends of the wire intended for the bridge support. A fifty-foot bridge requires eight No. 8 or 9 gauge annealed fence wire placed from six to eight inches apart, always remembering that the shorter and narrower the bridge the less weight in foot boards it will be obliged to support, consequently the more durable it will prove. The wires should not be drawn too tightly, but should have a curve of about ten inches in a fifty-foot bridge. Make the floor of some light, durable wood, one inch thick and four inches in width. Commence laying at one end, fastening each end of the board to the outside wire with a staple driven underneath. Place the boards one inch apart.

The posts should be about four feet in height, over which are strung hand wires firmly secured to anchor posts as shown. Short guy wires are placed every few feet and connected with the outside foundation wires; these not only add to the supporting strength of the structure, but prevent the bridge swaying in heavy gales. If heavy stones are placed near the posts for the cross timber to rest against the structure will prove more durable. Rapidly-growing trees planted near the posts may, in a few years, be used to replace them. Where the embankments are low, raise the end timbers so that the foot wires will be in no danger of injury by floodwood during freshets. If short sections of two-inch gas-pipe be used for all the posts and for the end crosspiece, and once in five years the wires are painted where they are wrapped around the end support, the bridge will prove good and serviceable for fifty years.—American Agriculturalist.

Doings Away with Pastures.

A. Barrett thinks that good farmers will soon adopt soiling almost exclusively in place of pasture. That a sturdier supply of food can thus be provided is unquestioned. Pasturing is wasteful, whether there is abundance of feed or not. Mr. Barrett believes that with good soil one and half or two acres of good rich land can be made to furnish feed for a cow a whole year, but in pasturing five acres are required for the end crosspiece, and once in five years the wires are painted where they are wrapped around the end support, the bridge will prove good and serviceable for fifty years.—American Agriculturalist.

Now, in the fall, is the time to begin soiling, and to do it properly preparations should be made so that the first feeding can be made in April and steadily thereafter. Winter rye is the first crop that should be planted. This should be put in in October or at the latest November. With good preparations of the soil and good seed the rye should take a steady growth as soon as the first signs of spring appear. The clover or grass seeds must be sown, too, and the rye will last until the grass is ready to grow up for eating. Clover or orchard grass seeds must be sown, too, for they give an abundance of good, rich, food. Early corn must be planted as soon as possible in the spring, and by the time the clover or orchard grass gives out the green corn should be ready for eating to take up the succession. Meantime the second planting of rye has been attended to, and when the corn gives out the rye will be ready for fall food.

Thus, all through the summer, a succession of green crops has been supplied to the cows, and with a little preparation in another line, the same can be continued through the winter. Either beets or mangels or silage should be grown for winter feeding, and this will complete the year.

To grow all of these crops considerable planning is required, but after the succession is once practiced it is not a difficult matter to follow and improve upon it. Every available space of land must be utilized.—Hartford Courant.

To Keep Trees from Breaking.

Prof. W. F. Massey, Horticulturalist of the North Carolina Experiment Station, gives the following in reply to an inquiry as to the best method of keeping peach trees from breaking down. Peach trees usually break down because of neglect in pruning and shaping the young tree. The peach bears its fruit on last year's shoots. If the growth is neglected the fruit-bearing wood gradually gets further and further out on the ends of the limbs, and the weight of the crop has a tremendous leverage and splits the limb off.

When we plant a young peach tree, of one year's growth from the bud (the only age at which they should be planted,) we cut the stem back to

about eighteen to twenty inches from the ground. When growth begins in spring, we rub off all the shoots except three or four at the top, which form the limbs for the future head. These are again shortened back in the fall one third; and when the shoots are too thick in the interior of the head and interfere with each other, they are trimmed out. Every fall the young growth of the season is shortened back one-third, and care is taken to maintain an even distribution of young wood all through the head of the tree. The crop is thus distributed over the tree and no damage is done. If the tree is planted and allowed to take the natural shape it assumed in the nursery, the limbs will more readily split off than when formed by heading back.

How to Preserve Root Cuttings.

It is quite common for those desiring new plants from cuttings, says the American Cultivator, to place them in a bottle of water, keeping the whole cutting, except a bud, submerged in roots form. The practice of gardeners is to place the cutting in damp sand, and they claim that the sharp particles of sand rubbing against the smooth end of the cutting hasten the callousing from which the roots are started. No manure of any kind should be allowed to come in contact with cuttings. The first roots formed are very tender and sappy. They will rot off as fast as they form if heating manure is placed near them. After the cutting has been well rooted, it may be planted in richer ground, but even then the filling around the roots had better be said than rich earth or manure. When the roots grow, they will reach the manure fast enough if within reaching distance, and this for a large vine may be fifteen or twenty feet distant.

Skim Milk Cheese.

There is a great outcry in some quarters against either making or selling cheese from which any of the cream has been removed. Yet it is true that if all the butter fats of rich milk are left in it when they go into the vat all above 4 per cent. go into the whey and are lost. The practice of many good farmers in making cheese for their own use is to skim each alternate mess of milk 12 hours after setting. This with milk in the pan would leave a good deal of cream to rise. Such skim milk was mixed with the new milk of the next mess. Cheese thus made was as rich and as good flavored as if a greater portion of cream was left to the pigs, because the cheese could absorb no more. It is fraudulent practices of different and worse sort than these that have brought American cheese into disrepute in the English market.

Thumping Pigs.

Pigs will "thump" in almost any internal disease; hence we could not decide from the statement received what the ailment would be, and no other material symptoms are given us. We have often stated that whenever a number of animals are sick on a place, and when deaths occur, it is desirable to have one or more of the carcasses cut open soon after death, and a careful memorandum made of the appearance of all internal organs.

This, in connection with a short description of the symptoms observed by the animals during their sickness, would be a valuable assistance in forming a diagnosis of the disease. As it is now, we are sorry not to be able to give any correct advice in this instance.—Prairie Farmer.

Curying the Cows.

The Washington Post aptly recalls the story of the British herring curer, who was for free trade in everything but herring, and the mass of correspondence now being poured in on Chairman Wilson by every mail, of which the following is a characteristic example:

I understand you propose to put poultry on the free list. I am raising Shanghai chickens out here in Nebraska and get \$6 a pair for them; but if you let in chickens from China free, it will put my chickens out of business.

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Agricultural Implements.

Some high tariff journals claim that if the Wilson bill passes, this country would be flooded with all kinds of farm implements from abroad. This statement betrays the inexcusable ignorance of those who make it. If there is any kind of manufacture of which American mechanics have absolute control it is the production of agricultural machinery. They sell the tools, implements, and machinery of the farm in all parts of the world in competition with those made elsewhere. The superior skill and workmanship of American mechanics give them a monopoly. The farmers in the South American republics will not buy an English or German machine at any price. Without successful competition in any country the only possible reason for a duty on farm machinery is that it furnishes an excellent opportunity to organize a trust, enabling it to make its own fortunes with those who use the implements in our own country. Our Minister to the Argentine Republic, Mr. Pitkin, was interviewed the other day in Boston, and in it he said: "You cannot get an Argentine farmer to touch anything in the shape of an agricultural implement unless it is of American manufacture."

Keeps McKinley Busy.

McKinley's Ohio knitting is keeping him very busy at this time. He has landed the State up to its neck in debt; his party is fighting tooth and nail over the flesh pots; there are a lot of official goodness to be straightened out; and the little Major is being kept busy.

"Sir," the General sternly replied, as soon as he could get a word in, "you have made a mistake. I am Gen. Cass, of Michigan."

"Gen. Cass" the Congressman stammered in some confusion. "I beg a thousand pardons. I took you for Mr. Guy, who is an old friend of mine. Please excuse me, sir."

The General bowed stiffly, and went out, but almost immediately returned, and again happened to meet the Southerner. The latter had seen Gen. Cass go out, and felt sure of his man this time. He came up, slapped him heartily on the shoulder, and said with a laugh:

"Say, Guy, I've a good joke to tell you. I met that stupid old Cass just now and thought it was you, and began to abuse him about my room."

"Young man," replied the General, drawing himself up more sternly than ever, "you've met that stupid old Cass again."

An eminent scientist claims that the time will come when all crops will be grown by irrigation, and that "water is king," instead of cotton and corn. Irrigation is as yet in its infancy, but the improvements that are constantly being made in pumps and windmills will do more to regulate moisture than any experiments to control the rainfall.

CAUSE OF THE PANIC.

TREASURY WAS EMPTIED BY THE REPUBLICANS.

Mr. Cleveland Left a Clear Surplus of Over One Hundred Millions at the Close of His Former Administration—Administration of New States.

Meet the Situation Boldly.

There is an opportunity for the President. If not a positive duty by a special message to Congress to lay before the country the exact condition of the national treasury and the steps to be taken in this regard, has been brought about. The exhaustion of the treasury is the direct result of a deliberate policy. The people are entitled to know just how that policy has worked, since they are now appealed to in its defense. They can in no way gain this knowledge so well as from an authoritative fiscal statement of the process by which the treasury was reduced from abundance to bankruptcy.

The Republican organs do not tell the whole truth. They dwell on the fact that the revenues have fallen off in the last six months. They do not explain that this temporary deficiency would be of trifling importance had not the Treasury been emptied of its accumulated and the expenditures raised beyond the revenues by the policy steadily pursued, both by the Congress and the executive, from 1889 to 1893. Mr. Cleveland left a clear surplus of over one hundred millions, independent of the reserves for the ordinary expenditure averaging \$263,000,000 a year, or \$105,500,000 less than the annual revenues. He received back a Treasury almost emptied, with even the gold reserves impaired, and the ordinary expenditures raised, by an enormous pension list and other fixed charges, to \$383,500,000, the actual payments last year exceeding the actual receipts.

The excess of expenditures over receipts could be easily met and corrected if the Treasury reserves had been left unimpaired. But they were gone. In one summer, during the panic of 1893, the Secretary of the Treasury poured into the market a million dollars a day for seventy days, in the purchase of bonds, paying in that year alone a premium of over twenty millions to extinguish a debt not due. No doubt it was a help to business, but it exhausted the resources of the Government; so that in the worse currency panic of last summer the Secretary was powerless.

During the three years from 1889 to 1893, \$45,000,000 of the surplus was given, not to the payment of debt, but to the payment of premiums alone. But this was not the worst. It was no doubt expected that the silver bullion purchased under the Sherman law would serve for the redemption of the Treasury notes issued against it. But the plan was a failure. The actual effect of the law was to drain the Treasury of its sound assets and substitute an accumulation of unmerchantable silver bars, which cannot be used in the payment of obligations and represent an absolutely dead investment.

As the national credit lies at the foundation of business credit, distress and panic were the only possible results of this reckless and unfortunate policy, associated, as it was, with a tariff whose very purpose was to hamper commerce and whose effect was to damage industry. The present administration has thus to meet the catastrophe ripened under its predecessor, with expenditures already fixed and the available resources of the treasury exhausted.

The Government is actually in debt, as the result of the policy inaugurated by the billion-dollar Congress. The present Congress will have to provide for this deficit by a loan. It should do so boldly and promptly, taking care that the country shall understand exactly where the responsibility belongs. —Philadelphia Times.

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"curses, like chickens, always come home to roost." Mean and dishonest precedents are very apt sooner or later to trouble those who set them. To make the charge that the motive of the Democrats in pressing the admission of Utah and Arizona is to get more political power in the Senate is an admission that this was the object of admitting Idaho and Wyoming to statehood when neither of them had a population to justify it.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

High Tariff Produces Trusts.

Trusts are the natural and legitimate offspring of a high tariff. Offering a bounty to manufacturers causes them to enlarge their plants and increase production beyond the normal demand. Tempted by the prospect of large profits, which are rendered certain by the combination of foreign competition, capitalist investment, manufacturing enterprises, and the result of that home competition produces a race of that kind of goods which renders it certain that some must go to the wall unless a combination is formed to limit production, fix prices, and parcel out the territory which each factor in the combine shall supply.

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Manufactures Roof Catches.

But the work of destruction did not end with the burning of these buildings. Firebrands were carried to the roof of Manufactures Building, and the promenade around the crown of that enormous structure was soon on fire. The wind was strong and the flames soon reached the immense wooden ventilators under the eaves, and they were soon burning fiercely. The clere-story under the roof was quickly in a blaze. From this and through the great holes made in the glass roof fell a continuous shower of fire-ands, and twenty minutes there were over a dozen small conflagrations in the Belgian, French, German, and English sections. Firemen and Guards fought these fires so successfully that, although the facades and exhibit structures were destroyed, probably not more than a dozen cases containing exhibits were burned. The goods jeopardized represented \$2,500,000; the loss is not over \$100,000, principally by water. How much insurance is carried will not be learned for some time, as many of the policies were written in foreign countries. There is little if any insurance on the Manufactures Building, and none on the Casino, Peristyle, and Music Hall.

The fire worked clear around the inside of the dome, burning itself out at 3 o'clock Tuesday morning.

As in the Cold Storage fire, life was lost in fighting it.

As in the Cold Storage fire, life was lost in fighting it. William Mackie, of Engine Company No. 61, fell from the Peristyle and died an hour later at Mercy Hospital. Three other men were injured.

The fire was discovered at 5:30 o'clock on the second floor in the northwest corner of the Casino. C. Mason, a guard on duty in Music Hall, saw it and ran to a fire-alarm box and tried to turn on an alarm, but the key would not work. Then he went to another box, and again failed. He tried a third with the same result, and then a fourth. Then he gave it up and hurried up a telephone, and succeeded in getting an alarm at last. By this time the flames had gained a strong headway. Marshal Malley responded with one engine, and immediately turned in a 4:11 alarm.

A week ago twenty engines would have responded to this call, but owing to the changes that have been made in the arrangement for fire protection at the Fair only ten engines responded. These found that they had more than they could contend with, so a special call was sent in, and this was soon followed by a second special. It was too late to attempt to save the Casino, and there has been no fire there for months, but there were a number of old packing cases and a quantity of explosives in the building, and if the fire was not started by design it could easily have been started by means of a cigar stub or the ashes of a pipe carelessly emptied in the inflamm