

The Farm and Household.

Wood ashes are among the most valuable fertilizers for the fields and orchard. Their valuable properties depend upon the potash, phosphoric acid, lime and magnesia which they contain. Their money value as a fertilizer is 40 and 50 cents per bushel.

SAVE THE STRAW.—The burning of straw at threshing time, says the *Rural World*, is a waste and a sin. It is generally practiced hereabouts in the wheat districts. Properly raked up, with very little winter pasture it will carry cattle through the winter, in this climate in fine order. It will pay any farmer to buy young cattle and let them feed upon this straw through the winter. He can't invest his money so well in scarcely anything else. Much manure is thus made and saved. The fertility of the soil is thus kept up. The cattle can be sold in spring at a large advance, or pastured and sold during the summer, or kept over another winter in the same way, with a little additional feed, and then turn off the spring for beef. Think of this, straw-burners.

THE POLAND CHINA HOG.—The Poland China hog is a cross of the Poland, big China, Irish grasper and Byfield Berkshire, and has now become as popular as the Berkshire. The description of a perfect Poland China, adopted by the National Swine Breeders' Association, is as follows: "Long in the body, short legs, broad, straight back, deep sides, flanking down on the legs very broad, full, square ham and shoulders, small, drooping ears, short head and wide between the eyes, spotted, of dark color, hardy, vigorous and prolific. As compared with the Berkshires, the most notable differences are drooping instead of erect ears, less dish in the face, greater liability to be marked with spots, ribs not so sprout and, in fact very fat pigs not so much sway at the back."

BENJ. FRANKLIN has the credit of being the first person in this country who made use of gypsum, or land plaster as a fertilizer. The manner in which he used it may seem somewhat egotistical. He sowed it in the presence of a number of skeptical farmers on a portion of a field of grass, on a hill side, in the form of large letters, spelling his name. After a few weeks, the grass upon which the plaster was sown so far outgrew the rest that the name, B. Franklin, could be plainly seen.

DON'T BORROW MONEY.—Perhaps few men have seen the troubles that farmers have been brought to in consequence of mortgaging their farms more than I have; and I warn my readers to beware of the pit they dig to fall into, by borrowing money to enable them to purchase stock, or to cultivate their farms better, and more extensively. There never was a time within the present century when farmers needed to be so careful not to run in debt at the present time. It will do for young men, with but little money, to buy really good farms, and run in debt for a part of the purchase money; but a farmer who is out of debt—owns his homestead free of mortgage—would be very unwise to put even a small mortgage on it. No matter what the condition is, it would be better to cut down expenses to the utmost degree. When a farmer is out of debt, he can on a tight pinch, support his family on a very small income. His cows, pigs and fowls, with the breadstuffs he can grow, without any hired help, will supply him with food. Then by keeping from 50 to 100 hens, he can buy his groceries with the surplus eggs; and with a few pigs fattened, a few calves, a little surplus hay and grain, he can clothe his family; and thus avoid mortgaging his farm—the death knell, in most cases, of a farmer's prosperity and peace of mind. Every farmer who finds it hard to "make both ends meet," and has girls and boys growing up, should have a patch of strawberries, raspberries or other small fruits, for the children to weed and pick, and also to sell in the village, if not far off. Let the rising generation among farmers be utilized, by being thus employed at times in some profitable and pleasant work.

FANCY CHICKENS.—The editor of the *Seisengrove Times* comes out with this emphatic pronouncement: "The fancy chicken business is magnified into great importance by those engaged in it, and large profits are realized every year; yet there is no doubt that the old fashioned and common kind of chickens kept by farmers generally are in every respect the best and most profitable. If from time immemorial the people throughout the country have no other than these fancy kinds of chickens, such as Brahmans, Shanghais, Cochins, etc., etc., and some chaps would come along and for the first time introduce our common breed of chickens, they would be looked upon as 'just the thing' and as embracing all the good qualities that a chicken ought to have, and everybody would raise them in preference to the fancy kinds which by long usage had become only common. The whole truth is, that there are no better chickens in the world than our common chickens, and which by care and a little study might be improved some as well as the fancy stock."

CLOVER.—No matter how mismanaged, the *Country Gentleman* says, clover is a benefit, and whatever else may do, the farmer who grows clover is making his farm better. What, then, might not the result be, if the same care were taken of the clover field as of the other crops? It does not need cultivating, and the different ingredients, when combined, are so constituted as to act simultaneously upon the Blood, Lungs, Liver, Kidneys, Digestive Organs, Nervous System, &c., restoring their functions to healthy action and being purely vegetable, is as harmless as Nature's own beverage. This medicine is a decided benefit in all, and a permanent cure in a large majority of diseases of the blood, such as Scrofula, Erysipels, Salt Rheum, &c. For a full description of this medicine we do not claim that it always performs cures; but this we do say, that it purifies and enriches the blood, permanently curing a large majority of diseases arising from its impurities. It stands far ahead and unequaled among the hundreds of competing medicines of the day. It has stood the test of ten years, and is to day more popular than ever. As a summer restorative it stands unrivaled; it endures the sun, bears up against the constant drain to which it is subjected by a high temperature. Persons who are subject to bilious Colic, Dysentery, Indigestion etc., etc., should take the Shoshone Remedy. Price of the Remedy in pint bottles, \$1; Pills, 25 cents a box.

THE CATTLE TRADE.—It is good to choose cattle that are in strong demand and that are particularly wanted at strong prices. It is true, an exchange remarks, that medium and low grades may for a time work in sympathy as to the relative prices to a limited extent with the better qualities; yet we consider it altogether possible that the market for these low grades of cattle may at any time become depressed, or even demoralized, by an over-supply of such cattle, while the market for really good cattle may remain firm. It is never good policy, so early in the season to take half-fat cattle, that will make nothing better than what is called slippery beef. The cattle are about as mad as they can be, while the market for really good cattle may remain firm. It is never good policy, so early in the season to take half-fat cattle, that will make nothing better than what is called slippery beef. The cattle are about as mad as they can be,

them to market. They are a kind of cattle that are never in favor with any kind of dealers, and in nine cases out of ten such cattle have to be sold in the consuming markets for less than they are worth in the fields from which they have been taken in the country. It is our opinion at the present time that all cattle of this kind should be kept in the country until they are made really fat. We expect to see a heavy run of cattle from Wyoming, Colorado, Texas and the Indian country during the coming fall season, and we hope to see them all come in good condition.

VALUE OF STABLE MANURE.—Stable manure generally sells to market gardeners and other people who want a little for private gardens at \$2 to \$3 a two horse load. No farmer can afford to pay over \$1 a load and draw it two or three miles, unless it be wanted for some better paying crop, than is generally grown on farms. If a farmer can not buy stable manure at \$1 to \$1.50 a load, he had better not buy any, but make what he can on his farm, and try turning under green crops, as buckwheat, clover, etc., to keep his farm in good condition, growing more grass and less grain and hoed crops. Some farmers recommend borrowing money to buy manure rather than attempt to grow crops with an insufficient supply. A late writer says: "Any man who has capital enough to own valuable land, cannot well be too poor to buy the fertilizers needed to make it productive. If he cannot do otherwise, he may safely borrow the money till his crop is harvested and sold. When a farmer cannot get enough stable manure as is the case with all farmers, buying some kind of commercial fertilizer is the alternative to doing nothing." That is doubtful. How can a farmer be assured of "safety" in borrowing money to buy manure? Suppose the season is very unfavorable, as by a great drought, and his crop fails, what then? No, don't do it; but keep more live stock, turn everything into manure that you possibly can, save your manure, as it is worth as much as guano, keep all the pigs you can, as their manure is very strong, throw weeds into their pen to keep the manure from drying, with turf, muck, or anything that will increase the bulk of its contents; and thus try to avoid the necessity of buying manure.

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