

Of Interest to the Farmers

(This matter must not be reprinted without special permission.)

THE CREAMERY PROMOTER.

A good many queries are being received by agricultural journals in different sections of the country relative to the dependence that can be placed upon the so called creamery promoter. The reply given in every instance that has come under our notice is that these should be given a wide berth. This advice is sound and should be followed. These fellows know about as much of the creamery business, the conditions which exist in any given locality and the problems which would arise, as a cat does about Hebrew. They are in the business of promoting creameries primarily for the purpose of filling their pockets with easy money and not to further the dairy or creamery business and to bring profits to the patrons of a creamery enterprise. If the farmers in any section make up their minds that they want to embark in the creamery business—and the decision is a wise one where there are enough patrons to support it—the sensible thing to do is to call in some one who has a permanent postoffice address, the state dairy commissioner, some representative he may send or some man of repute who is known to have had extended and successful experience in the creamery business. Many an enterprise of this kind has fizzled out because of a bad start and because those interested in it did not have an adequate idea of the conditions which really existed or the degree of success that it was possible to attain. The kind of authorities referred to will know about the problems likely to confront a new project of this kind and will be able to give helpful directions and suggestions. The difference between the fat sum that would have to be forked over to a fly by night promoter and the modest sum required to defray the traveling and hotel expenses of some reputable creamery authority will go quite a way in buying equipment, coal and machine oil.

A DOUGHTY WEED PEST.

What is coming to be a nefarious weed pest in many a central state and eastern garden patch is crab grass, which is also known by the name five finger, descriptive of the five spurs or sprays into which the seed head is usually divided. This grass is late in sprouting and thus escapes much of the effect of the May and June cultivation. When the garden crops are laid by it gets busy and by Sept. 1, unless it is given frequent attention, will furnish as effective a mat over the surface of the ground as would miles of binding twine secured with twenty-penny spikes. Of course this is hyperbolical, but this figure is the only one that in any adequate degree fits the case. While this grass does not live over the winter in its root system, it yet has the pernicious faculty of sending out lusty roots wherever the recumbent joints touch the ground. The only way to rid a patch of land of it is to hack away at it during July and August and prevent any of it from producing seed. If manure contains the seed it should be well rotted and the seed destroyed before it is applied to the soil.

Where it appears in the lawn the only way to eradicate it is to dig it out with a jackknife or plow up and reseed the lawn anew. It may be kept in check in a fairly satisfactory manner by keeping the lawn grasses in a thrifty and growing condition by frequent watering during the dry weather, when the crab grass gets in its work. The removal of the clipped heads by the use of the grass catcher will reduce greatly the amount of seed which will settle among the roots of the grass to germinate next season.

A POSSIBLE CAUSE OF FAILURE. Many a failure with alfalfa and clover seems directly traceable to the fact that the soil on which the seed was sown was sour and needed sweetening with an application of lime at the rate of two or three tons per acre. Where such treatment has followed previous failure with alfalfa, really remarkable results have been secured. The lime should be applied to the land in manure with a spreader or spread with a seeder of some kind which will insure an even distribution. While a sour condition of soil may be inferred from the fact that clover will not grow and from the presence of sorrel, it can be determined much more definitely by running a spade into the earth a few inches and inserting a piece of blue litmus paper, which may be got at any drug store. If the soil is acid this test paper will turn from blue to pink. Of equal importance with the lime treatment is the inoculation of the soil with bacteria in the soil from an established alfalfa field. The tract intended for such use should also be well drained and have a porous subsoil of good depth.

With the English the Dorking is the favorite table fowl. It is a remarkably full breasted bird and, though a slow grower, attains a large size at maturity.

The steer should be graduated from the feed lot to packing house by the time she is three, and the hen should be made into potpie when she is two years old.

The weather never is to one's liking all the time, but the way the weather clerk superintends the department probably gives as general satisfaction as if the job were turned over to some other fellow.

The boys may feel greater interest in keeping the fields clean if a new and up to date cultivator is substituted for that wobbly old ratiere that has been doing duty for the past ten or twelve years. The growing crops, too, may give decided evidence that they appreciate the change.

Where sawdust is available it makes a very good absorbent for the liquids in stable manure. Fresh sawdust

contains an acid which tends to neutralize the alkali of the manure, and, while it adds little to the soil in the way of fertilizer, when decayed it furnishes a valuable mold or humus.

The French way of slaughtering horses after they have outlived their usefulness in the harness has some advantages over the practice quite common in this country of selling broken down animals to some heartless brute who will exact the last ounce of work from them, quite likely killing them in the process. The old country way means at least a quick and merciful death.

That humus-decaying vegetable mold—is a requisite for the proper development of vegetable life is shown nicely when a crop such as corn is planted on spots which have been scraped off in the process of leveling a piece of land. The growth that is made is stunted and the plants are of a sickly color. It usually requires several seasons of fertilizing and tilling to bring such soils to a normal productive capacity.

Swamp muck might be used on many a farm to good advantage as an absorbent of the moisture and liquids in the stable manure. Such treatment would arrest the dissipation and decomposition of fertilizing elements, while the muck soil would furnish a type of humus that the average soil stands much in need of. For winter use in cold latitudes the absorbent could be thoroughly dried during the summer months and stored under cover where it would be available.

The housewife—it is superfluous to call her busy—can save herself a whole lot of hot work over the ironing board if she will fold the bed linen, towels and all of the underclothing and hose carefully after they are dry and put them away without ironing. If she feels that she must put a crease in them this can easily be done by putting the folded clothes under a heavy weight for a few hours. A whole lot of women are making this short cut in their work, and they are to be commended for their good sense.

That old friend the pigweed, known also under the names redroot and careless weed, is a very cosmopolitan pest. It tries the religion of the New England farmer, harasses the patience of the midwest gardener and is one of the worst bane of the Pacific slope rancher. Its source of working mischief lies in its profligacy and persistence. It will mature all the way from 10,000 to 25,000 seeds in a single season, while if chopped off in the morning there is a tradition that it will send up a shoot and mature a seed before sundown. Its roots go deep and are about as tough as that of an alfalfa plant.

For those desirous of taking up bee-keeping there could hardly be available a more concise or practical publication on the subject than farmers' bulletin No. 397, entitled "Bees," recently published by the department of agriculture at Washington, whence it may be had free by sending for it. This bulletin condenses into forty-two pages the practical information and directions necessary in the proper management of an apiary, including location, equipment, general manipulations, swarm management, production of honey and wax, wintering, diseases, etc., as well as much other pertinent general information. At the close of the bulletin is given a list of all publications of the department bearing on the different phases of bee-keeping.

In all varieties of apples where color is a requisite, factors of quality and size being the same, the highest prices will be received for that fruit which is the most highly colored. To secure this result sunshine and a free circulation of air are necessary, and this cannot be if the tree has a dense and thickly headed top. The way out is the inauguration of a system of pruning which will open the tops of the trees—the removal of the main leader a good distance down and the thinning of the lateral limbs. This will not only color the fruit, but it will greatly simplify the labor of spraying and harvesting it, while in years to come, if the pruning is properly done, it will mean that the fruit will be produced within a reasonable distance from the ground instead of at a height where extension ladders will be needed to pick it. Red apples are the money fetchers, and the above is the way to get them.

A Delaware hen, bought to furnish stuffing for a porcupine, laid her owner 249 eggs between Jan. 27, 1909, and Dec. 6 of the same year. Unlike the milking habit in dairy cows, the egg producing habit in hens seems incapable of development in any considerable degree by the selection of pullets from mothers of high egg laying capacity.

The writer varied the March pruning of his peach trees considerably this year, cutting some lightly and others severely at blossom time. It is interesting to note that those cut most heavily are not only making the most vigorous growth of new wood, which will bear next year's crop, but carry the best sized and most thrifty looking fruit at the present writing.

When one is contemplating the purchase of fruit or agricultural land in a new section it is not only a good plan to take a spade and investigate the character of the subsoil and look into the exact status of the water right if the tract is in an irrigation section, but to take the trouble of inquiring into the business integrity and financial rating of the chap with whom the farm or ranch is listed for sale.

In selecting a site for the orchard it is perhaps natural to make the mistake of choosing a soil which is too heavy and fat for the best production of apples. On such soil conditions seem to exist which tend to a produc-

tion of wood rather than fruit growth, thus defeating the object one has in view. Pears will produce fruit on rich, moist soils, while peach trees should be set on the thinnest soil on the place.

Kansas took a step ahead as a fruit producing state when the law recently passed making the spraying for San Jose scale and other pests compulsory was declared constitutional. The law requires orchard owners to spray and otherwise properly care for their trees. Representatives of the federal department of agriculture and of the Kansas experiment station are planning to thoroughly demonstrate spraying in several counties in the eastern part of the state this season.

The soy bean is being put to a use by Chinese and Japanese farmers which might be adopted with decided advantage by American farmers who live in sections where this legume does well. The oil which is extracted from the bean is taking the place of linseed oil, while the cake which is left after the oil is removed is used with excellent results as a substitute for linseed and cottonseed meal as a stock ration. The advantage of the soy bean is that the growing of it means soil enrichment and not soil impoverishment, as is true of both flax and cotton.

The regular bearing of fruit by trees which have suffered some injury, seriously impairing their vitality, has led orchardists to experiment along the line of a purposeful cutting or wounding of orchard trees with the object in view of getting them to produce something besides healthy and glossy looking leaves. In some cases this is done by removing several narrow strips of bark lengthwise from the trunk of the tree, enough of the bark and underlying cambium being left between the strips removed so that the tree will be able to heal. Another plan followed with considerable success consists in cutting a circular trench about the tree to the depth of three or four feet and four or five feet from the trunk and severing all of the roots which cross it. In both of these methods it is well for the novice to try them on a limited scale with two or three trees.

Next fall there will be inaugurated at Lyndon, Vt., a plan that should commend itself to friends of agricultural education in other parts of the country. The characteristic feature of the plan is a labor system which will engage too able-bodied students to pay their way with the work they do on the farm connected with the Lyndon academy. The expenses for the nine months are fixed at \$36 for tuition, \$108 for board and room and \$18 for books. The boys are to be taught the theory of agriculture in the class room and will work these theories out on the farm under intelligent supervision. Remuneration is to be at the rate of 15 cents per hour, or \$25 a month during the summer. This plan will enable many an energetic boy to acquire a helpful education without having acquired a bank account of his own or getting help from the old folks.

"I thought it over, and reckoned I'd go in for it; so I set to and wrote out my paper. A fair masterpiece it was when I'd finished. I was going to be so tender hearted and thoughtful and generous that any girl who married me would hardly believe she was still earth. She was to have her own way in everything, her own bank account, latchkey, vote—and goodness knows what else, while I'd work about eighteen hours a day so's she could have new dresses whenever she wanted em, and a new hat every time she passed her favorite shop."

"Altogether it was a wonderful piece of writing. Yes, and it won me the prize, too. One morning I got a letter asking me to call. Off I went, dressed in my Sunday best; and when I got there I saw the managing editor and a lot of gentlemen from newspapers who congratulated me till I didn't know whether I was on my head or my heels. Then my photo was taken.

"There's just one thing more, Mr. Trefusis," said the head of the firm, shaking me by the hand—that being the fancy name I'd put on my paper, being shy by nature. "You must now go before the committee."

"And what'll they do?" I asked him, feeling rather nervous.

"Oh, only ask you a few questions," he said. "It's a mere formality. And besides, they've got the ladies' photographs to keep himself shipshape and his view of things rational and wholesome, but yet one might well be used by many another elderly man with gain to himself and those about him.

J. E. Trigg

DECAY OR TIN.

Remarkable Alteration Which Takes Place in the Metal.

Anything made of tin, it seems, is doomed to a brief existence. This metal is subject to a remarkable kind of alteration, a species of disease to which it is liable. When exposed to the air tin undergoes no chemical change, as do iron and copper, which, of course, chemically combine with the oxygen or with water. The tin, however, still remains metallic tin, but gradually becomes gray and dull and falls to fine powder.

The disease is "catching." It infects or induces the same change in other masses of tin in the immediate neighborhood. We are told that in a Russian imperial magazine, in place of tin uniform buttons, little heaps of powder were found. A consignment of Bank tin sent from Rotterdam to Moscow in 1877 arrived at the latter place in the form of powder. This alteration is due to a change in the internal crystalline structure of the metal and is analogous to the slow transformation of monoclinic sulphur to rhombic sulphur. As a result, objects of the of archaeological interest are rare. Those that have been found have been in the form of earthenware vessels, knobs etc., which have been found in the Swiss lake dwellings coated with tin foil. Cassiterite or tin stone is the single ore from which the tin has been obtained in any quantity.—Knowledge and Scientific News, London.

The Worst to Come.

"I love you, dear, but I am green and rattle, and I don't know how to propose."

"That's all right, honey. You're through with me. All you've got to do now is to ask papa."—Cleveland Leader.

The Garfield family is well provided for by the pension granted by Congress and the income of a large public fund.

"The Winner"—A Short Story

By LESLIE THOMAS

"There's a lot of these prize competitions about now," remarked the little man in the corner of the compartment, folding his newspaper meditatively. "Some people say they're all a take-in; but that's not true, as I happen to know."

"You've been a prize winner?" I queried.

"I winked. "I should say so! I'd tell you about it, too, only—well, after all, it's a good while ago, now."

The interest I displayed evidently flattered him, for, after chuckling to himself for a minute or so, he held out his paper and tapped a page.

"See this one here," he observed, "cheque for two thousand pounds for the person who sends in the best account of what he'd do with the money if he got it. Well, the one I went in for was something like that, only the prize wasn't so big. A furnishing firm got it up for an advertisement of course. It happened to catch my eye one night when I was going back from work, and I took it home and read it through carefully. Seemed to me I had a pretty fair chance."

"Where to? Oh, a different neighborhood—as far away as I could get. What for? Why, I thought it would save unpleasantries. But then I'd lose the furniture? Yes; I know that, but I didn't see my way of getting hold of it, anyhow."

"What do I mean? Well, I'll tell you. Just in your ear, like. Don't let it go any further. Remember the paper I'd written—the one that won the prize—all about what a model husband should do? Well—er—some one else had given me the idea for most of it; and though I myself wouldn't have had much objection to marrying this Miss Templeton I thought it was only fair to my wife that I should consider her feelings in a matter like that."

EDITOR GUINEY HONORED.

His Paper Made Official Organ of Minnesota Federation.

At the recent convention of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, the Minnesota Union Advocate, published in St. Paul, Cornelius Guiney editor, was unanimously chosen as the official organ of the federation, an honor not to be lightly esteemed. But, apart from this and what must have been peculiarly gratifying to Mr. Guiney, was the fact that the motion to select his paper as the official organ was made by a rival, Editor J. P. Kennedy of the Labor Review of Minneapolis. Further, the motion was seconded by Editor McEwen of the Labor World of Duluth. Truly, honors fell thick and fast on the head of Editor Guiney from the hands of his rival quill pushers. It is sincerely to be hoped that it will not result in an undue enlargement of his bump of self esteem. However, it is safe to predict that such will not be the case. Labor editors are too busy with the real problems of life to afford the time for nonsense.

Editor Guiney is to be congratulated on the place he has won in the hearts of his fellow men in Minnesota and elsewhere. His was an honor as worthily won as bestow. Likewise, Editors Kennedy and McEwen are to be congratulated. Their action breathes that spirit of unselfishness and devotion to the cause without which the labor movement would never have reached its high estate. The reason for the growth of trade unionism in the Minnesota jurisdiction is explained and made clear.

DON'T WAKE THE FOOLS.

So Long as Toilers Sleep They Are Perfectly Harmless.

"What did you tell that man just now?"

"I told him to hurry."

"What right have you to tell him to hurry?"

"I pay him to hurry."

"What do you pay him?"

"Five shillings a day."

"Where do you get the money to pay him?"

"I sell bricks."

"Who makes the bricks?"

"He does."

"How many bricks does he make?"

"Twenty-four men can make 24,000 bricks a day."

"Upon my word, I fairly quaked when they started staring at me, and all talking at once. I can't remember half what I told 'em; anyhow, at last they said they were satisfied."

"Now," said Lady Ponderfield, "I will display the photographs, and you are to make your choice."

"Upwards of five hundred photos there were altogether, I believe; but I was getting dizzy, so at last I shut my eyes, and picked out one of the pile."

"Well, but I own the machinery."

"How did you get it?"

"Sold bricks and bought it."

"Who made those bricks?"

"Shut up! You will wake the fools up, and then they will make bricks for themselves."—British Workman.

More Pay, Shorter Day.

Over 15,000 men employed in the various branches of the metal trades in San Francisco and surrounding towns secured a 10 per cent increase in wages and an eight hour day recently. The men are all employed in shops controlled by the California Metal Trades association and include patternmakers, machinists, molders, machine blacksmiths and boilermakers.

Several weeks ago the unions formulated demands for the new agreement, and after several conferences with a committee representing the manufacturers the terms demanded by the workers were accepted. The increase will average over \$3 a week for each man, who will also have an opportunity hereafter to cultivate the acquaintance of his family after spending eight hours at hard labor.

Child Labor in Massachusetts.

The report of the Massachusetts state child labor committee just issued states that Massachusetts has fallen from its former place as a leader in child labor reform and in various important methods of restriction it has been outstripped by a number of other states. Within its borders in workshops, factories and other establishments are employed between twenty and thirty thousand children under sixteen years of age, and a large portion of them are employed ten hours a day.

A BUSINESS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK BY HENRY CLEWS

New York, July 23.—The stock market is still undergoing a rigid course of treatment under the rest cure. Many operators are absent on vacation, and there is every indication that farmers both west and south will this year raise products quite equal in value to those of last year, and this in spite of the damage to spring wheat, the importance of which has been greatly overestimated. What is a loss of \$100,000,000, the estimated damage to spring wheat compared with the total value of farm products, which amounted to \$8,760,000,000 in 1909. The iron trade is quiet and not running up to full capacity, indications being that recent lower prices will bring out waiting orders and impart a larger degree of activity later on. Improvement is already developing in the cotton goods industry, the necessities of consumers compelling buyers to take hold with more freedom. The copper industry is still in very unsatisfactory condition owing to continued overproduction, but apparently well founded rumors of agreement this week have imparted a decided better tone in this important industry.

Only one man in 208 is over six feet in height.

CHICHESTER'S PILLS
THE DIAMOND BRAND.
Established 1852.
Chichesters Pills in Red and Gold metallic
Pills take no other. Buy of your
DRUGGIST. Chichesters
DIAMOND BRAND PILLS, for 25
years known as Best, Safest, Always Reliable
SOLD BY DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE