

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

Grading Up Stock—Fancy Poultry Is Not Profitable—Quality of Maple Sap—Potato Culture—How to Market Stock—General Farm Notes.

Pure Bred Stock.

The breeds are the result of hundreds of years' patient work. It was half a century before Bakewell completed his experiments with the Cotswoold sheep and since 'tis time that breed has not only been improved but has also been made the foundation upon which the best mutton breeds of the present day have been produced. Every farmer knows how rapidly the trotting horses have increased their speed since the days of Hambletonian, and yet Hambletonian himself was the result of many years' breeding. When the great Boston and Lashon met for supremacy, the race horse of that time was considered at its supremacy, and no degrees could be traced far beyond Godolphin Arabian, yet a son of Boston lowered the record of four miles to a point that was marvelous. Lexington, who performed this feat, became the source from which the best race horses of our time came. These results were due to the selection of the best for breeding purposes.

When a farmer has a flock or herd of mongrels it will pay him to grade up his stock by the use of pure-bred sires, but his aim should always be to procure something better. If he has pure breeds he must strictly adhere to them. The moment he attempts to cross one pure-bred lot with the use of males of some other breed he makes the first downward step. He obliterates pedigrees, and the tendency is then back to the mongrels. This may be particularly noticed with those who often attempt to improve the flocks of poultry by crossing two breeds that are entirely unlike. The result usually ends in two or three seasons, in a flock of mongrels possessing no uniformity whatever. The same will happen with animals. If a thoroughbred race horse and a trotter are crossed the value of the progeny is less than it would be if its parents were both from the same breed, and from the best strains of that breed.

Every breed has been bred on certain lines. The shorthorn is intended to produce beef in preference to milk and butter. The Holstein is a milk and butter producing animal. Cross the two breeds and the result will be an animal that is not equal to the shorthorn for beef or to the Holstein for milk and butter. Both breeds have been lost in the experiments, so far as their dominant qualities are concerned, and nothing has been gained. The reason is that long of patient breeding for certain characteristics have rendered them fixed and inherent in the breed. But breed the mongrel with the use of the pure-bred male, and while the progeny will not equal the pure breed, yet it will far excel its mongrel parent, and by grading still further there is a persistent improvement. The farmer can thus effect a constant increase in quality, and add to the value of his stock every year.—Philadelphia Record.

Fancy Poultry Don't Pay.

There is no country where fancy poultry—mostly Asiatic—has had such a boom as in New England; and no country, unless it be England, can show such a shortage of home products. And now, after all this trial, seemingly not satisfied with these prolific Asiatics, poultry editors are treating us, says the Vermont Chronicle, with full accounts of the "merits" of many mongrel breeds, "superior to the Asiatics"—as we are constantly told by the editors themselves—and apparently better just in proportion as the Asiatic blood diminishes—Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, etc.

Summing up all the experience of the past forty years, with the present great and increasing shortage of home-laid eggs in New England, necessitating such an immense importation from Canada and the West, he must be a very sanguine poultryman, indeed, who still adheres to the notion that Asiatic fowls have been of any benefit to America. Take the good old common hens of New England, give them the skilled care and attention that has been given to the Asiatics—keeping out the Asiatic blood—and the record would be vastly better. Had this been done, we would now be exporting instead of importing eggs by the million dozen. And we are sure that for market poultry, as well as for eggs, we should to-day be vastly better off if no Asiatic fowl had never appeared on the American Continent.

How to Market Stock.

The most successful feeders for profit are very careful what kind of stock they buy. Nothing can be made of inferior animals past their prime, and to feed them never so well is very much like throwing money away. If there are a few poor specimens in a flock sell them quickly at whatever price can be got. To try to put them among a lot of good, well-fattened animals will depreciate the whole more than the others will bring. If there can be two classes made in selling be sure and make them, and dispose always of the poorest first. The same causes which made the best animals gain their superiority are likely to continue in operation as long as they live. Yet it is quite common among a certain class of poor farmers to let the butcher take his pick of their flock, thinking that with the reduction in number extra feeding will make the remainder as good as the first. It very rarely results thus.

is usually not lack of feed, but lack of digestive power that makes the poorer animals in a flock out of condition. If an attempt is made to force more rich feed into these animals digestion is still further injured, and their condition becomes worse than before.—American Cattler.

Growing Peas With Oats.

It has long been a practice with some farmers to grow the oat and pea crop together, sometimes cutting both while partly green and using for fodder, and occasionally allowing seed of both to ripen. The fact that the oat stalk helped hold up the vine was not the only, nor yet the greatest, advantage of this method of cropping. It has been always claimed that either for grain or hay these two crops combined produced a larger yield than either would alone. Science has come to the defense of this old-fashioned belief. It is known that the pea crop is one of those leguminous plants which, like clover, uses the nitrogen of the air to support itself. As this process of decomposing the atmosphere takes place in the soil, it is quite probable that the oat crop finds more nitrogen for its roots during its later growth from having the pea crop grown with it.

Manure Out Under the Eaves.

On far too many farms the old custom is still in vogue of throwing the manure out beneath the eaves, though in some instances it is only done because the owners are not quite ready to build new barns, when all this will be changed. Many people, says Hoard's Dairymen, forget the fact that plants do not eat, but drink. They can only appropriate the fertilizing elements in any plant food while it is in a liquid or dissolved state. Thus it is seen not only are the liquid excrements lost by passing down through the stable floors, as they do in many cases, but the rains still further rob the value of the solid portion by washing away the more soluble portions. Ninety percent of the potash—one of the most valuable of the ingredients of stable manure—is voided in the liquid.

Quality of Maple Sap.

All experienced maple sugar growers know that sap from some trees is much richer than it is from others, even of the same species. As is well known, soft maple give sap not very sweet and not so easy to grain when making sugar. This may be partly because soft maples usually grow in low, wet grounds. We have always noted that maple trees on rich, high ground produced much and sweater sap. Trees standing apart give more and better sap than those in a dense forest. This may be also because such trees are usually more branching. The maple tree that give the best and most sap of any tree we have ever known stood in a pasture where stock rested in its shade every summer. It was wide branched and extremely thrifty for many years.

Farm Notes.

The harrow and the roller are among the most important of the farm products. Without the liberal use of both the small grain crops can hardly be put in properly.

It is better to train grapevines in cold weather. If such work is postponed until the sap begins to flow the vines may then be injured by cutting them back severely.

In some classes of farm products over-production has not so much to do with the depression in prices as has poor quality. This applies equally to products so widely different as cattle and fruit.

It is a frequent, but erroneous impression that in planting strawberries it is necessary to have at least every other row set with the perfect flowering sorts. One row in six is quite ample for this purpose.

GRAPEVINES planted on heavy land are always the first to be attacked by mildew and rot. The roots cannot penetrate to any considerable depth. The best soil is a deep, well-drained, sandy loam, where the roots can reach permanent moisture.

WHEN the old hens begin to lay eggs of unusual size, such as double yolk eggs, it indicates that they have been overfed and are too fat. In such cases the grain ration must be reduced, and more green food and meat should be allowed.

ONE of the surest methods of conserving the fertility of the farm is to observe proper rotation of crops. No farmer can afford to neglect this, no matter how rich his land may be. Where it has been attempted the results have always been disastrous.

WHEN sheep are allowed to go on scant feed for a month, or even a shorter time, there will be a weak place in the staple easily detected by the wool buyer. This greatly lessens the selling value of the sheep. Keep them in good condition for some time, but not too fat.

Toughest Town in the World.

A citizen of this city lately returned from a tour around the world describes Port Said at the Mediterranean end of the Suez Canal as the wickedest place he ever visited.

"During the five days I was detained there waiting for a steamer," said he, "I scarcely dared venture in the streets unattended, for assaults and robberies at midday were of the common occurrence. All nations are represented there, and the enmity between the Consuls is such that criminals are rarely brought to justice. The morning that I finally left the hotel I was horrified to find the body of a Norwegian sailor on the sidewalk with his throat cut from ear to ear and a rope around his neck, by means of which his assailants had evidently been dragging him about the streets. Nobody manifested sufficient interest in the event to even remove the body."—Philadelphia Record.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

THOUGHTS WORTHY OF CALM REFLECTION.

A Pleasant, Interesting, and Instructive Lesson, and Where It May Be Found—A Learned and Concise Review of the Same.

Discord in Jacob's Family.

The lesson for Sunday, April 8, may be found in Gen. 37: 1-11.

INTRODUCTORY.

Jacob: A new name in the record of the race, and a new beginning of days. Geikie, in his "Hours with the Bible," has well said: "The return of Jacob to Canaan was the first great step toward the formation of a Hebrew people. Hitherto there had been only individuals of the race, but with the family of Jacob it branched into numerous heads of the future tribes of Israel. The formal and solemn acceptance of the traditional faith of Abraham by these at Bethel determined henceforth the history of Israel as identified with the perpetuation and spread among mankind of the great doctrine of the unity of God and of the high standard of life which was known as 'the way of Jehovah.' And now in a strange way this people is to be carried down to the earth to work out the divine behests. Joseph is, unwittingly, to be the John the Baptist, the forerunner of this great movement. For five weeks now we will deal with his wonderful life.

POINTS IN THE LESSON.

"And Jacob dwelt in the land where in his father was a stranger." The language rewards closer study. Literally, Jacob took his seat in the land where his father tarried as a sojourner. He established himself in Canaan; he made it his home. In other words, Jacob dwelt as a citizen where his father dwelt as a transient—a transient, at least, in the estimation of those around about.

"These are the generations of Jacob" is a little obscure. One would naturally expect to have the names of Jacob's sons follow. Instead we have the narrative of their doings. And this is really what is meant. Paul gives it this, "the events or occurrences which happened to Jacob and his issue." And he instances the story of Noah at Gen. 6: 9 ("generations"), also of Moses and Aaron at Numbers 3: 1. Moses here turns from the account of Esau's prosperity to that of the chosen family. The Lexicon gives for a rendition of the word here translated "generations," family-history.

And Joseph brought unto his father their evil report;" better, the evil report of them (see Revision), or, even more literally, the rumor of their badness. It was probably current in the places which they frequented and Joseph did not act the part of a mere tattler or tale-bearer, but rather of a repeater of what was the common talk among the people. Possibly, too, he may have been dispatched with the special errand to bring his father tidings. The Douay says he accused his brothers of a "most wicked crime."

They "could not speak peaceably unto him," is, literally, they were not able to say peace (salam) unto him. Peace was the salutation of friends. They so hated him that they could not render him the ordinary salutation of good fellowship and courtesy. So far had their anger and jealousy preyed on him.

HINTS AND ILLUSTRATIONS. We have in Joseph's life a powerful lesson of God's providence. Joseph is the man of destiny. Who would have thought that the casting of this delicate boy into a pit would have worked out such mighty results. But here again man's extremity is God's opportunity; or, rather, man's straits are God's enlargements. Look back over your own lives. Has there not been many a Joseph experience there? Recount them.

"God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform. He plants his footstools in the sea And rides above the storm."

"Blind untell is sure to err And scan his works in vain; God is his own interpreter, And he will make it plain."

The lesson which the International Committee have particularly chosen to emphasize in this portion of Joseph's life is that of conflict, the warring of opposite natures. Let us find here some suggestions as to how to conduct ourselves in this life so as to win the best conquest. There is a way of living which, while it necessarily means conflict with the world, signifies alliance with God and assured triumph in the end—God's providence with the Christian warrior. Peloubet suggestively names the case of Dr. Parkhurst in New York as a noteworthy instance of the warfare that must arise when private integrity takes its stand against public inquiry. So always, as Dr. J. Gordon intimates, the plumb line is the standard of right, and the "scales of justice" are the "scales of God." This is understood to be the motive of the Boys' Brigade, which some have quite naturally supposed might possibly engender the belligerent spirit. On the contrary, as we ourselves know from some slight experience, the opposite is the result. Says Mr. Deming: "We give them military drill not to set them to fighting, but to keep them from fighting." Obedience to authority ought certainly to make for peace, and it does. The trouble with Joseph and his brethren was that they had "broken ranks," and did not know how to "keep step."

MILLIONS OF BUSHELS HANDLED. Hundreds of brokers and speculators were wildly claving for wheat, says the dispatch. They bid the market up on themselves furiously, and in less than five minutes the price was 61 $\frac{1}{2}$, and July was 63. From 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 61 hardly a trade was made. Everybody wanted to buy wheat, and nobody had any for sale. The touts of supply were suddenly exhausted. The bears were thrown into a hopeless panic by their inability to get wheat. Nothing so frightens a speculator as to discover that he can neither buy nor sell, and when thoroughly panic-stricken nobody can skip fractions in his bids like a trapped short seller. At such periods he wants the property and price cuts no figure.

Grains of Gold. CULTURE never made a saint. A STINGY man is never contented. Forks who hope are generally folks who help.

NOTHING is heavier than a trouble that is borrowed.

GENIUS may be swift, but perseverance has the surest feet.

THERE can be no true politeness without the practice of self-denial.

TO LIVE long for what we can see proves that we are shortsighted.

IT is probable that the street car strike in Toledo, Ohio, will be settled by arbitration.

FLURRY IN WHEAT. BLAND BILL VETOED.

PRICE GOES UP THREE CENTS A BUSHEL IN CHICAGO.

Charting Crop Damage Talk and a Hard Freeze Coming Create a Panic Among Buyers—Enormous Business and Great Excitement on the Floor.

Mad Scramble in the Pit.

There was a waking up of the wheat trade the first hour Wednesday morning, says a dispatch from Chicago. The fear of still colder weather over the wheat belt the May price started up galloping in the first half hour, going on all offerings ceased, and shorts excited and bid prices up 2 cents in a few minutes. May from 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ Tuesday night went to 61 $\frac{1}{2}$. Corn for May was up 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ at 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ the first hour. Oats gained 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 31 $\frac{1}{2}$. Pork gained 10 cents in sympathy. Receipts for the day were very light at 24 cars wheat, 96 corn, 118 oats. Hogs were posted at 29.00.

After months of weary waiting on the full side of wheat, and after depression and depression such as never before recorded in the trade, there was a upward in the market and a of 3 cents in the speculative price in less than an hour. The great pit, which has been afflicted by that "tired feeling" for weeks and months, at once became the scene of great excitement. May wheat, which closed 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ Tuesday night, started at 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ and in



CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE

a few minutes moved up to 59 $\frac{1}{2}$, with no indication of the panic which followed. The Signal Service Agent put the touches on the weather map. The chart showed milder weather only in certain localities, while the Northwest, Iowa, Kansas, and other great States of the wheat belt had freezing weather. This was not all. The prediction was for a more severe freeze than on Monday over the whole wheat belt. This was alarming. At the same hour every house on the floor with country connections had dispatches telling of wheat already killed by the cold wave Sunday and Monday. Tuesday the trade was bearish on the theory that wheat was not injured. Cairo and St. Louis parties after sending out agents reported half the crop in Southern Illinois, Tennessee and Kentucky killed beyond doubt, as it was jointed by the previous warm weather. All this came on the trade, which was heavily short. It was not the shortage of the big houses, nor a dozen big houses. The scalpers were short. The tallers after the bear plungers were short. Every big commission house had 10 to 100 customers short, some small, some large lines. They all wanted wheat. In the face of the weather map and the alarming crop disaster, there was no one to sell it to them. There was nothing left but to bid for it. This started the panic among shorts. Then came another element of danger, the stop loss orders. Customers with ten, twenty or fifty thousand short about 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ had protecting orders around 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 60 cents. When stop orders were reached commission men were still. Once the market got by the stop order point the loss was on the house. Big houses had all their broke buying like fury. It was a wild scene and a great, bounding, bull market, with losses for shorts, big and little, right and left. The May price started 58 $\frac{1}{2}$, went to 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ gradually, went to 60 $\frac{1}{2}$ with shorts climbing over each other to get wheat at 61 $\frac{1}{2}$. It went from 60 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ with commission houses buying on a tremendous scale to save their customers and themselves, and the panic which was on carried the price to 62 $\frac{1}{2}$, July sold 60 $\frac{1}{2}$ up to 63. Particular brokers sold wheat on the big advance, and the May price went back to 60 $\frac{1}{2}$. On a second flurry before midday the May sold 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ and was stopped by enormous selling by Baldwin, Farmum and others. The market became steady at 60 $\frac{1}{2}$, 24 over Tuesday night. The light cars, 168 Minneapolis and Duluth, against 360 a year ago, added to the forces of the buying.

III—Advised and Dangerous.

I am convinced that this scheme is ill-advised and dangerous. As an ultimate result of its operation, treasury notes which are legal tender for all debts, public and private, and which are redeemable in gold or silver, at the option of the holder, will be replaced by silver certificates which, whatever may be their character and description, will have none of these qualities. In anticipation of this result, and as an immediate effect, the treasury notes will naturally depreciate in value and desirability. The fact that gold can be realized upon them, and the further fact that their destruction has been decreed when they reach the Treasury, must tend to their withdrawal from general circulation, to be immediately presented for gold redemption or to be hoarded for presentation at a more convenient season. The sequel of both operations will be a large addition to the silver currency in our circulation and a corresponding reduction of gold in the country.

The argument has been made that these things will not occur at once, because a long time must elapse before the collapse of anything but the seigniorage can be entered upon. If the physical effects of the execution of the second section of this bill are not to be realized until far in the future this may furnish a strong reason why it should not be passed so much in advance, but the postponement of its actual operation cannot prevent the fear and loss of confidence and nervous prostration which would immediately follow its passage and bring about its worst consequences.

RESIDENT DECLINES TO IN-DORS THE MEASURE.

Bill Is Returned to the House Without His Approval—Seigniorage Might Be Coined on an Issue of Low Interest Bearing Bonds.

WOULD ROB US OF OUR GOLD.

President Cleveland has vetoed the Bland bill. Long before the House was called to order Thursday morning the news had spread over the floor that the seigniorage bill had been vetoed, and later, according to a Washington dispatch, when the positive announcement was made it caused little excitement.

JOSEPH HENDERSON was badly injured at Muncie by falling timbers while his house was burning.

LOTTIE ELLIS, the 7-year old daughter of George Ellis of Eaton, fatally shot herself with an old revolver.