

## HELPS TO FARMERS.

Useful Reading for the Man Who Tills the Soil.

### AND RAISES CROPS AND CATTLE.

#### Between Niagara and Hamilton.

There is one universal practice in farming near Hamilton that to an Ohio farmer seems exactly uncalled for. I refer to plowing in narrow lands. This is everywhere practiced, even where the land is high and well-drained. To see dry, rolling, well-drained ground plowed in lands of eight, ten or twelve feet in width, looks like a mistake. It is not a natural method of preparing a seed-bed. Although the furrows are not deep, very little grows therein, and the inconvenience of cultivating and harvesting the crop is considerably increased. The custom seems to be a remnant of the old English practice, which a wet soil and moist climate rendered necessary. One can hardly account for its persistent practice where these conditions are not found. It is self-evident that a soil so plowed will not stand drouth as well as one where the surface is more nearly level, and if the land is even slightly rolling, the liability of the soil to wash is greatly increased. Old ways and old methods, simply because they are old, are not always the best ways and methods in farming.

#### Death in the Milk Pail.

It is a fact which should be noted and remembered, that milk is equally susceptible of contagious diseases as typhoid fever, measles, smallpox and others of similar character, as a person is. And that milk exposed to the virus of these diseases conveys it to persons and communicates the diseases to them. A recent case which happened in Worcester, Mass., is especially noteworthy. An outbreak of typhoid fever occurred in the town and was traced to the milk from a farm where the hired man had died of the fever and the farmer lay sick of it. Of the several persons who died in the town, the Superintendent of the Board of Health was one of the first, and strange to say he knew of the existence of the disease at the farm and knew the milk he used came from there. This is a subject for all the Legislatures to deal with and to place the responsibility on the persons who are to blame—the farmers who send diseased and infected milk to market. They might as well put poison in it, for it would not be any more dangerous.

#### Avoiding Poison Vines.

There need be no trouble in identifying the poison ivy in any of its forms. The hairy trunk will often serve us, but there are two other features which are of much more value. First, let us remember that its leaves are always grouped in threes, whatever the outlines of their more or less wavy margins. In some sections the plant is always called the "three-leaved ivy."

Four things need to be committed to memory, says *Harper's Young People*, to insure safety against our poison smatches:

1. The three-leaved ivy is dangerous.
2. The five-leaved ivy is harmless.
3. The poison smatches have white berries.
4. No red-berried smatch is poisonous.

Both the poison ivy and the poison smatch, though unlike in appearance of foliage, have similar white berries growing in small, slender clusters from the axils of the leaves. In all other smatches the berries are red, and in close bunches at the ends of the branches, and far from being dangerous, yield a frosty-looking acid which is most agreeable to the taste and wholesome withal. With these precepts fixed in the mind, no one need fear the dangers of thickets.

#### Cow Stable Manger.

A novel manager for a cow stable is endorsed by W. L. F. Brown. In his stable he has one wide manger running through the center, and a row of cow stalls facing inward from each side. In describing it he says there should be no obstructions in it and that it should be floored with dressed lumber, so that hay may be easily pushed through it, and a broom meet with little resistance in sweeping it. The feed boxes for meal he has projected half their width over the manger and half over the stall. He has also two ventilating shafts leading to the loft above which he uses for dropping hay through into the manger. In answer to adverse criticisms he says that it is a great saving of space and also labor, as the hay is dropped from above directly before the cattle; that there has not been the least danger from the cows hooking; and lastly, that he has been able to keep it thoroughly clean, as it is very easily swept out, only taking about two minutes to sweep the whole length of thirty feet.

#### Rape as a Cleaning Crop.

There is no crop grown, perhaps, which can be better utilized as a cleaning crop than rape. This is largely owing to the late period at which it may be sown. Of course much of its efficacy for this purpose depends upon the previous preparation of the land, but there is usually ample time for this, as the rape need not be sown till about the last week in June. It may be sown even later where the soil is good, and where it can be given ample cultivation afterwards with the horse-hoe.

#### Underground Ice-House.

Formerly, many ice-houses were constructed underground, but the plan has been almost entirely abandoned. You can keep ice in the cellar of your summer house, if it is well drained. Run a tile drain from the cellar bottom, so that the water from the ice will run away quickly. Arrange it so that the air cannot get to the bottom of the ice. After providing for thorough drainage, put in about two feet of sawdust on the bottom. Put about eighteen inches of sawdust on all sides of the ice, and two feet or more on top. Ice will not keep in the cellar unless it is well drained.

#### Oats and Peas.

The Minnesota Experiment Station experimented last season with oats and peas sowed together. It reports that either the blue or white Canada field peas are the best sorts to sow with oats, and advises sowing in the proportion of three bushels of peas with a bushel of oats, or where the oats will stand a great deal, two-thirds of a bushel of oats. Theodore Louis, of Wisconsin, on his manured land, sows only one-half bushel of oats and two bushels of

peas per acre, but on drouthy and poor land two bushels of peas is not enough.

#### Keeping Clover.

The National Stockman recommends that in rainy, catching weather clover be placed in the stack or mow with alternate layers of straw. It affirms that the clover comes out green in color as when put in. Even the blossoms do not change color. The straw is also imbued with the flavor of the clover and is eagerly eaten by the cattle. Dairymen do not generally realize the value of maintaining the clover green color of the hay. This will be particularly shown in promoting the yellow color of the butter made in winter.

#### Overbearing Grapes.

Some varieties of grapes have the ability to withstand the abuse of over-bearing for a time, but all will succumb if it is persisted in. The variety most likely to overbear is the Delaware. Vines apparently in perfect health (which had overborne the previous year) suddenly gave out, the leaves fell, and the fruit never ripened. It takes them two or three years to recover. Concord will not show overbearing so soon. The best paying, the earliest and the poorest is the Champion.—*New York Farmer's Institute.*

#### What the Cow Wants.

The cow does the work of manufacturing the milk and only needs plenty of suitable food for that purpose, but the quality of the butter does not depend wholly on the cow. Butter is flavored to a certain extent by certain foods, and the first essential in the manufacture of butter is the quality of the food. The largest amount of inferior butter comes from lack of skill in preserving the cream, churning and handling. To make good butter is an art which requires skill.

#### Fix the Fences.

Look over the fences. This is the season when stock at pasture is inclined to roam, seeking fresh grasses and better pasturage. It is far better to mend the fence before the stock breaks over it. Better still to have good fences that are not getting out of repair and tambling down. Put some of that spare money into good cedar posts and wire, and enjoy the pleasure of knowing the fences are all right and the stock safe in their inclosure. It will pay better than 4 per cent.

#### Crop Rotation.

The following is given as a rotation which gives six crops in four years: 1, clover and timothy, out about the 1st of July; 2, cabbage, set out after the grass is out; 3, potatoes, dug in July; 4, rye, sown after the potatoes are dug; 5, potatoes again; 6, clover and timothy. The rotation may then be repeated in the same order.

#### Cut in the Milky Stage.

Farmers who grow oats and cut the crop when the grain is in the milky stage save threshing and handling of the grain. If oats are cut in the green condition the nutrition that would be deposited in the grain is arrested in the stalk, and the result is that the straw is not only more nutritious but more digestible. In preparing the ground for oats another season keep the above in view.

#### Farm Notes and Extracts.

Two items are important in draining. Secure a good outlet and provide a regular descent for the water.

With cattle in many cases it will be more profitable to sell when grass-fed. It requires good management to grain-feed cattle now with profit.

On an average the better plan is always to sell an animal whenever it is ready. There is always more or less of a loss in feeding longer than this.

Times have changed on the farm as well as everywhere else, and for successful farm husbandry the man must know why as well as how.—*Maine Farmer.*

Many of our most troublesome weeds are introduced plants. It is a curious fact that the migrations of man have often been traced by a study of such plants.

"Witches in the cream" may be chased off by dissolving a teaspoonful of salt in a quart of water and adding this at a temperature of 65° Fahr. to each four quarts of cream, kept before churning.

Butter kept at a low temperature quickly spoils when brought into a higher. Australian exporters found this out through costly experience, in sending frozen butter to the British market, as it quickly became rancid when thawed.

It is a good practice in washing butter to add a handful of salt to the washing water, whether the butter is afterwards dry salted or salted with brine. It renders more complete and easy the washing out of the butter-milk.

It is a common mistake to attach too much importance to size in poultry. For the "showing" market, two plump and well-matured ten-pound turkeys will bring considerable more profit than one lean and lank weighing twenty pounds.

Excepting sheep no other domesticated animals more rapidly degenerate for want of attention or need of new blood infusions than poultry. Last year at the Dominion Experimental Farm, two different strains of Buff Cochins were mated, and the result, it is said, was patent in a larger percentage of eggs, producing hardy chickens of large size.

#### A Voice From the Boudoir.

"What a foolish man?" said Miss Grace. "All men are foolish, my dear," remarked Miss Trim. "To what particular one do you refer?" "It says here in the paper that a Philadelphia has just offered to sell himself to a Coroner for \$75." "Really?" exclaimed Miss Sour. "I am delighted to know that there is one man who fully appreciates himself."—*Chicago Times.*

#### She Was Always Late.

Terre Haute Express: Mrs. Wickwire—If you go first you will wait for me on the other shore, won't you, dear? Mr. Wickwire—I suppose so. I never went anywhere yet without having to wait for you at least half an hour.

Edward Langevin, who went from Quebec to St. Paul in 1849, has just died in the latter city. He leaves a fortune estimated at \$5,000,000.

Ladies who paint their faces lay on a priming of chalk first, which is prima facie evidence of their art.

## MUNICIPAL CONTROL OF LIGHTING AND TRANSPORTATION.

Sylvester Baxter, in an exhaustive article in the *Herald* on "The Government of Boston," says that the whole tendency of good municipal government is towards enlarging the sphere of government; in the assumption of functions that have formerly been left to the administration of private interests. "Experience everywhere shows that the more a municipal government—or any government—for that matter—has to do, the better it does it. The best governed cities of the world are those that have the largest range of responsibility." It is becoming more and more apparent, he proceeds to say, "that the question of good government vitally hinges upon whether administration to the necessities and welfare of the community is intrusted to public or private hands. Every new private corporation that is permitted to enter the field of municipal service, every new privilege granted to an old corporation increases by so much the danger of municipal corruption, and deprives the public of a portion of its right of self-government. On the other hand, every function of this kind that the city assumes places, by so much, its government upon a firmer and more businesslike basis, and makes more and more necessary a good civil service.

"The leasing of the ferries to a company would create one more corporation to work upon the city government and intrude in its affairs. Let me cite a comparatively recent instance of the noxious influence of these corporations: Something over a year ago it was ascertained that the lighting of the City Hall, the court house, the registry of deeds and the police station was costing somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000. This sum was paid to an electric light company for the service. Investigation showed that by placing a dynamo in the basement of the City Hall, the same lighting could be done at a cost of about \$7,000. An order for doing this was passed by the Common Council, but the electric light company brought such a pressure to bear upon the Board of Aldermen that the measure was promptly rejected by that body. Whether it was merely political or social influences, or considerations of an even more reprehensible character, the aldermen who thus subjected the city to an expense which it was clearly shown could be avoided, were false to their trusts and unfit for their positions.

"These great corporations, constantly seeking privileges from the city, are one of the most formidable menaces to good government and to public security. The furnishing of electric light by private corporations, instead of by the city, is the sole cause of the disfigurement of our streets and buildings by overhead wires, and their attendant danger to life and property. Chicago, which does its own electric lighting, avoids this danger by running its wires underground—which our electric light people say cannot be done (because they want to avoid the expense). Chicago gets its street lights for \$54 a year, and the cost will soon be reduced to \$50, while Boston still pays private corporations for its bad service \$146, or nearly three times as much, and was, until lately, gouged to the tune of \$237,251.

"The influence of great corporations upon municipal politics is as extensive as it is pernicious. The stock objection to the public administration of such matters is that politicians are liable to enter into them, and corruption follow. But politics of the worst kind exists in the relations of these private corporations with the municipal government—a concrete sample of which we have just seen. Whatever corruption still pays private corporations to do a job better than they could do for the city, and their high charges to the public, demanded to meet the interest and dividends upon their inflated capitalization. If there is any abuse in a municipal department the remedy is at hand. The public can at any time demand an investigation, and the accounts are open to examination. With the case of the private corporation the remedy is not at hand. The accounts are kept secret, and any demand to see them is resented as an interference with private rights, while the secret workings, the ramifications of hidden methods, are past unraveling.

"Attention has frequently been called, of late, to the way in which the city has long been throwing away and giving away valuable franchises that might, properly managed, bring in a large and much-needed revenue. When the city has not done this itself, the Legislature has done it for the city—a good illustration of 'fraternal government,' in contradistinction to what has been falsely termed 'paternal,' but which is really fraternal—the principle of mutual self-help on the part of a community, which renders for the benefit of its members those services which can better be performed by individual effort." "The city's call to mind a place in America in which the street railways are owned and managed by a city corporation. In several countries the great railways are owned and operated by the Government, and in some countries this is done very successfully. A recent article in the *New York Ledger* says that 'in Victoria—the most progressive of the Australian colonies—telegraphs, railway and irrigation works, which in the United States are in private hands, are owned and managed by the state. So far as telegraphs are concerned, this is true of England also, but the rates are much lower in Victoria than in the mother country.

"The Victoria railways now pay four and one-half per cent. on the capital expended, and would make much larger returns were it not the policy of the colony to continually lower the fares and freights so as to encourage industries and render service to the people. This purpose is carried so far in New South Wales that school children are conveyed free of charge on colonial railways, while in Victoria remissions of fare are made to certain classes of students.

"The low fares of the Victorian railways are the more surprising because the wages of labor are about twice as high as they are in England, and coal costs nearly twice as much. We should not let private corporations, but to the municipalities. The eight-hour labor day has been observed throughout Victoria since 1886, so far as

artisans are concerned, and in 1886 an early closing law went into operation whereby male and female clerks in shops are relieved from duty at 7 p.m. on five nights of the week, and 10 p.m. on Saturdays. Altogether Victoria is a worker's paradise, high wages being combined with cheap food, cheap transportation and leisure for culture and amusement."

#### Must Have "Annie Rooney."

New York Herald: To the highly advanced musical mind it may be discouraging and even provoking to find that most people enjoy Strauss more than Wagner and Suppe more than Rubinstein; that the overtures of Rossini and Anser are popular with more than the preludes of Liszt; that sparkling melodies of comic opera appeal to wider circles than do the grand operatic symphonies of the Bayreuth master. But if such be the fact it must be recognized. If you would attract the people you must offer them what they like. If they want popular music you must give them popular music or forfeit their patronage.

#### What Will Be Worn.

Wholesale clothiers are having an unexpectedly good sale of almost all styles of goods, but the winter suit that is capturing the lion's share of patronage is made up of the following component parts: A four-buttoned waistcoat, with flap pockets, lapped seams and double stitched edges; a high cut vest, and pants that are of moderate width at the knee and fall to the instep, somewhat after the style of the old-time "peg-top"—a homely pattern modified to gracefulness in the new offering. Black chevrons and dark cassimeres are the fall season's leading fabrics.

#### A Wise Precaution.

A firm of chemists in Birmingham, England, places upon all poisons sold by them directions as to the antidote which should be applied in cases where the poisons are taken accidentally or intentionally by human beings. An English chemical journal gives an instance where this precaution was the means of saving life.

#### The Jap of It.

*Harper's Young People.*  
A certain man named Robinson  
Thenceforward was to Japan  
But back he came right home again,  
A much insulted man.  
The Japs all read from right to left,  
And this was gravely him sore;  
Though on his card was Robinson,  
They called him Nos-ni-bor.

#### A Novel Proposal.

Amy—Oh, I forgot to bring my pocket-book. Do you know, I don't know what to do with my hand unless I have something to carry.  
Jack—Then, why not give it to me!

CHICAGO possesses an institution called the Bureau of Justice, the purpose of which is to help the friendless and very poor where they are wronged by unscrupulous employers, landlords and others. From a glance at a summary of its proceedings we believe such an organization might find a field of usefulness even here. The bureau is maintained by subscription. Its only salaries are an agent and two lawyers. In the words of its President, Mr. Charles H. Hain, its work is "to see to the administration of justice in cases of misfortune, oppression, meanness and cruelty." In its first year it dealt with eleven hundred such cases, in its second with twenty-five hundred. It is open to all poor and defenseless people who believe themselves wronged; it hears them, investigates their complaints, and where they have good ground it sees them righted. It aims to prevent litigation; but it heard 2,500 cases last year, collected \$10,000 in wage claims and had 325 cases in court 300 of which it won. It is not a charity, it distinctly discourages needless litigation but it seeks to get justice for the friendless poor.

#### THE HAPPY FARMER'S LIFE.

He rose at dawn, washed on a bench,  
Just outside by the pump;  
Then fed the horses, cows and pigs,  
And himself on the jump.  
Then worked till noon upon the farm,  
And hurried home to his wife;  
And all he had was pie or mush,  
With very seldom meat.

His afternoon was like his morn.  
Then supper was the cry;  
And if exhausted he still felt,  
They filled him up with pie.

He worked till dark to feed his flock,  
Then took his tallow light;  
And when we just begin to live  
Said to the world good night.

Our little Lucy is just two. She came to her mamma one day, holding up her chubby hand and saying, "Cut my bones," meaning her nails.—*Youth's Companion.*  
"Do you smoke?" the maiden asked suddenly. "Y-yes, sometimes, he stammered. "Well, I wish you'd smoke now. These mosquitoes are eating me up."

A letter from Lord Knutsford is published stating that the office of the Crown advises the question of the Trinity University musical degrees to be brought by petition before the Privy Council.

It is said much dissatisfaction exists amongst the Conservative workingmen of Montreal owing to the way appointments are made by the Federal Government.

Mr. Gladstone will arrive in Edinburgh on the 20th October, and will address at least three meetings, probably at Edinburgh, Dalkeith and West Calder. About the 29th or 30th he will visit Dundee, where he will be presented with the freedom of the city.

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## OUR FRIENDS ON MARS.

M. Flammarion Talks of Recent Remarkable Discoveries of the Telescope.

M. Flammarion, the eminent Parisian astronomer, says: "I have just received some new observations concerning the planet Mars made this summer at some of the principal observatories of our own planet. They teach us some very strange things. It seems that at certain seasons of the year the oceans of the planet Mars are divided into two parts, just as if a gigantic bridge or bank of sand had been thrown across them from one shore to the other. For instance, there is, among other seas in the planet Mars, one situated at the 90th degree longitude east of the meridian 0.25 degrees longitude on the thestral tropic. On account of the isolation as well as the superficial area, this sea resembles our Black Sea. Hitherto this sea has always been observed as uniform and almost circular, but last June Mr. Schiaparelli, of Milan Observatory discovered that this sea was cut in two by a yellow band which divides it into unequal parts. A lake somewhat similar to our Lake Teich, was also noticed to have been divided into two parts at the same time. An excellent and very minute observer in England discovered that five immense canals were also divided into two parts by two straight lines, absolutely parallel to each other, in the same manner that a certain number of enigmatic canals were noticed to have been divided some years ago. What can these seas, lakes, canals, that divide themselves up in this manner be? As inhabitants of this earth we have only our observatories and our terrestrial ideas in our mind. These are insufficient to divine what takes place in another world, but such discoveries are none the less worthy of all our attention.

Who would have thought that electric light would prove useful as a bug-destroyer? Professor Lintner made a microscopic examination of the insect collections of the same time. An excellent and very minute observer in England discovered that five immense canals were also divided into two parts by two straight lines, absolutely parallel to each other, in the same manner that a certain number of enigmatic canals were noticed to have been divided some years ago. What can these seas, lakes, canals, that divide themselves up in this manner be? As inhabitants of this earth we have only our observatories and our terrestrial ideas in our mind. These are insufficient to divine what takes place in another world, but such discoveries are none the less worthy of all our attention.

The girl who takes care of the chickens knows all about the shoe business. The second and sudden visit of Mr. Fowler and Mr. Costigan, of New Brunswick, is regarded by some Ottawa politicians as indicative of the early approach of the General elections.

Princess Christian sent a beautiful old Chippendale escritoire as a wedding gift to Miss Fairbank last week, and the Princesses Victoria and Louise presented an ivory and white lace parasol, paid for out of their own pocket money. The bride is the daughter of the late Dr. Fairbank, family physician to the royal household.

—What a lovely trip you must have had to Europe. Do tell us what you saw? Really, I did not have a minute for sight-seeing. I went with Snook's Tourists, you know."

DONL 40, 90.

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