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Agriculture.

UTILIZING WASTE PLACES.

How many farmers have ever taken the trouble to make a careful estimate of the amount of unutilized land on their farms? There may be several acres overgrown with brush and each year becoming more difficult to clear off and put in productive condition...

In close times like the present it behooves farmers to have a careful regard for the principles of true economy. If an outlay of five dollars will make a return of twice that amount in a single season, then surely hard times furnish no excuse for neglecting the improvement...

Much land is rendered almost worthless by shade trees in fields where they are not needed. Stumps and large stones are left to encumber the ground and impede work.

There is probably not a farm of fifty acres or more so closely managed that there is not on it enough unused productive area to raise several dollars worth of produce.

It is interesting to compare the above data with the condition of affairs in 1788, before steam engines were introduced in France...

BUY A FARM.

There are a great many men in our large cities and manufacturing villages who are now out of steady employment, but who have a few hundred dollars laid up. They are not farmers, and can never expect any great pecuniary success in agricultural pursuits...

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

"AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH."

ANDREW ARCHER, Editor

VOL. 1.

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NO. 25.

KEEP THE ANIMALS WARM.

The first blast of wind from the north is a reminder that animals, however tough and hardy, need shelter in winter. It will take less food to keep farm stock over winter in warm stables than when exposed to severe cold.

CROSS-BREED JERSEY AYRSHIRE COWS FOR THE DAIRY.

Which is the best cow for farm and for family use? Where the farmer uses his cows for butter-making, experience would go to show that the grade Jersey is essentially the farmer's cow, a fact widely appreciated.

LABOR SAVING MACHINERY.

Some of our intelligent, thoughtful writers have been attributing the surplus of unemployed labor to the enormous extent of the labor saving machinery in use. Many of the witnesses before a Congressional committee recently in session in New York, insisted upon the destruction of labor saving machines as the readiest means of giving employment and prosperity to the working people.

LATE CHICKENS THE BEST LAYERS.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman writes: After repeated experiments during the past twenty-five years in hatching chickens, I am fully convinced that fowls hatched in the month of July make far better layers than those hatched at any other season of the year.

CROSS-BREED SHEEP.

At the New York State Fair there were exhibited some sheep bred from common Merino ewes and the Cotswold ram.

POULTRY HOUSES.

Chickens require dry, and at the same time airy apartments, with room for abundant exercise. For this purpose the upper story of a hen house is well adapted, providing an easy entrance may be made, so that the young birds can have access to the ground and fresh air when the weather is pleasant.

AN OLD SUBJECT.

In agriculture there are a good many old subjects, and lots of new sermons have to be preached on old texts. Practices change a little from year to year, and though they may differ somewhat in different localities most men have a way of their own and are very liable to believe their way quite as good as another's.

VALUE OF GOOD SEED.

A farmer of long experience says: "The result of my experiments with at least thirty-eight different varieties of wheat for years, proves beyond a doubt that good, healthy, unadulterated seed, selected and saved as farmers select and save their seed corn, will not run out or deteriorate in the least, but grow better."

THOROUGHBREDS COMMON SHEEP.

A farmer in this county who is supposed to own as good common sheep as anybody in this locality sheared his flock, and after weighing the fleece, found that each sheep averaged two and a half pounds.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN AMERICA.

Agricultural education at the Mass. Agricultural College has at last been placed practically on the basis of free tuition by a recent action of the trustees, who voted "that each graduate (of which there are now over 150) of the institution be allowed the privilege of nominating one student to a free scholarship for the full course of four years."

POULTRY HOUSES.

There are many other plans: and indeed one can use his own invention, and adapt it to locality and circumstances, which is better yet. The writer has become disgusted with windows in the roof. They are better in the gable, or directly under the eaves.

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of all description, EXECUTED ON MODERATE TERMS. RATES OF ADVERTISING. Ordinary advertisements, 10c per line per insertion, \$1.00 per month. Each subsequent insertion, 5c. BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENTS. Inserted for 6 months or 1 year on moderate terms.

The number of weeks an advertisement is to be inserted should be clearly stated. When this is not done it will be continued until ordered out, and charged the full time it has been inserted.

CLERGYMAN FARMERS.

In the early history of Massachusetts a large proportion of the ministers were farmers, and generally good too, for then, as now, the better the education, the better the farmer, as a rule. Nor did the healthy exercise require in working their productive acres, prevent them from presenting strong and vigorous arguments from the pulpit on Sunday, nor were throat diseases, dyspepsia and trips to Europe considered, at that time, among the necessary evils connected with the clerical profession.

BUTTER MAKING.

In a communication to the Rural New Yorker, F. D. Curtis says:— If I have made a discovery, or if everybody knew it before me, I will tell it all the same. As soon as the cream shows signs of "coming," pour into the churn two or three quarts of water—as near ice-cold as it is possible to get—and the butter will gather a great deal quicker and come hard and firm. I tried the cold water (ice water) on the start and found it made the cream too cold and kept the butter from coming; but put in at the last end it is a capital idea and will save hours of churning in the course of the season.

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Fulton of the Baltimore American writes in a recent letter from Europe:— In our recent journey through Southern France, the entire circuit of Italy, through a considerable portion of Austria and Germany, through Belgium and Northern France, the distance being nearly five thousand miles, we observed that the much largest portion of laborers in the field were women. They were not only making hay, but ploughing, mowing, hoeing, grubbing and planting. They were not only doing the work of men, but such work as men usually depend on horses to perform. In all the vast country we did not see a horse-rake, a cultivator or any labor saving implement. The only cultivator was the primitive hoe, and a line of women, mostly superintended by one or two men, bent their backs to the labor. The ploughs looked as if they might have been modeled after the implements which Noah landed from the ark. We did see one threshing machine standing on a car at a depot in Austria, which was the only labor-saving machine that attracted our attention. But even in Italy, with the exception of the Roman Campagna, the culture was fine, and the crops most promising of a rich harvest. Every inch of ground was made to yield to the utmost, and wheat, corn, grapes, and fruit all bore evidence of skillful cultivation.