

FARM AND DAIRY.

This column is devoted to agricultural subjects, and the editors will be grateful to farmers if they will use it for the intelligent discussion of matters pertaining to their important calling.

Lightning Rods on Farm Buildings.

Farmers are especially interested in the question, "Shall we have lightning rods?" which the government weather bureau answers in the affirmative. An expert, Alexander McAdie, tells in a pamphlet recently issued that, out of 3,103 buildings reported as having been set on fire by thunderbolts in the nine years ending with 1892, at least 2,335 were barns, and of the dwellings struck the majority were out in the country. The greatest danger is experienced on flatlands, where buildings are very widely separated. The region reporting the most damage lies between Wisconsin and Maine and reaches down to the Ohio River and Maryland.

Mr. McAdie quotes several individual experts as well as the famous lightning rod conference in England (1882) in support of the doctrine that, while not infallible, lightning rods are highly desirable. Mr. McAdie prefers a metallic tape to a rod for a conductor. The electricity in one case is confined to the surface, and in the other would traverse the interior also. If copper be used six ounces to the foot will do, he says, but if iron be more convenient then he would recommend 35 ounces to the foot. The earth plates should be buried deeply in permanently moist soil or running water. Connection with gas and water mains is favored if the rod runs near them, but independent grounding of the conductor is much better than such connection. Clusters of points or groups of two or three along the ridge rod are favored, and the tops of rods should be plated to avoid rust. Chains or linked conductors are pronounced next to worthless.

The Hired Man.

One of the most perplexing problems the farmer meets is the difficulty of securing competent, reliable farm help. Shorter hours poorer service and less intelligence prevail to a greater extent than for years past. An error that lies at the bottom of this subject is the common impression that it requires no brains or training to make a farm laborer, and no effort toward advancement is put forth by the average farm hand. Another mistake for which the employer is responsible is the practice of classing all farm hands alike, or nearly so, and adhering to an unyielding range of prices in wages paid. By that practice the shiftless fellow is paid too much, and the careful, painstaking man not enough. The average farm hand could, by careful intelligence, make his services worth twice the common run of wages. But it requires brains rightly used, to fill any position well, and merit promotion. The field is never crowded for those who excel. No man has better opportunities or surer prospects for promotion than the farm hand, if he only proves equal to the occasion, and rises to the best that is in him. Would that I could impress this upon the great army of farm boys and hired men. The time is already coming when farmers will see these things and discriminate against shiftlessness and in favor of brains, industry and integrity. And the difference in wages is only beginning to widen. It pays to think, study and grow, aside from wages, because it takes all these to make the man.

The Road Trouble.

Look at our waggons. The hind wheels cut exactly into the ruts which the front wheels have made. Why? It looks to me thus: Because the front wheels do not cut deep enough into the roadbed. It would be all right had we steel rails on our roads, but a dirt road cannot stand such usage.

All this can be prevented by a reasonable and proper construction of our waggons, carriages, carts, etc. A waggon should have wheels with wide tires. The two front wheels should be set under the waggon about thirty inches apart. The hind wheels should remain in their places as they are now. If this is done the hind wheels will roll down the outside ridges left by the front wheels, and both front and hind wheels will cover the tracks made by the hoofs of the horses, and, instead of cutting the road to pieces, smooth the same. The front wheels might be even ten inches wide, and the hind wheels twelve inches.

It is claimed by some that such a waggon will draw hard, but experience shows quite the contrary.

The objection has been: "These waggons will look clumsy." This is a matter of fashion, and when people are accustomed to them they will think, on picturing to themselves the waggons of other days: "What old waggons they used to have." A few years ago when pneumatic tires for our bicycles were unknown to the world, everybody admired the wheels as they then appeared. What do people think now after the broad, clumsy pneumatic tire has become universal? Why, no one will ride one of those small-tired wheels of bygone days if he can help it.

ENGLISH NEWS.

As Given by the Versatile Correspondent of the Tribune.

Mr. George W. Smalley's special cable to the New York Tribune says:—English comments on the American election are of the usual kind. The only thing that really interests the English is the effect of the elections on the tariff, and as they are assured there will be no effect they relapse into their natural condition of contented indifference. There are exceptions. The English free trader mourns over the defeat of Mr. Wilson in West Virginia, and the English Socialist laments the defeat of Mr. Coxey, whom he publicly extols as one of the few good and able men in America. So good and intelligent a friend of America as the Spectator attributes this revolution to a fit of temper. This journal, nevertheless, is able to rejoice in the overthrow of Tammany, and has summed it up in a good phrase as the insurrection of virtue in New York. Other journals also rejoice.

One other effect on the English mind this rout of the Democracy with its sham free trade has had. The English have discovered that no immediate protection legislation is possible, and for once they are disposed to think that a constitution which secures delay and provides a veto has merits hitherto unsuspected. The English Radical who hates deliberation and hates everything which prevents him from expressing his latest caprice at once in a statute is also a free trader. This time, therefore, he has a good word for the fundamental law of America; it happens to suit his purpose.

I suppose I need hardly add that the Radical and Socialist make haste to explain that the defeat of the Democrats is due not to the merits of the Republicans but to the demoralization of their opponents. The Chronicle, which steadily discredits American institutions because they are not Socialistic, informs its readers that the masses in America are impoverished and think themselves sold; hence their revolt against the party in power. These explanations may not seem quite consistent, but I give them as they occur. There is of course a large body of the best Englishmen who are really our friends, and rejoice sincerely in a triumph which to them implies a return to sound principles and honest methods of government.

No small portion of the London public is profoundly agitated by the coming School Board election. The English people have taken a lesson out of the book which has long been the Bible of the Roman Catholic priesthood. They do, on one side and on the other, now understand that the battle between rival churches and creeds is to be fought primarily in the schools. The compromise on the basis of religious or Biblical teaching without the intrusion of doctrinal theology has been disturbed. Each party accuses the other of disturbing it. Which ever began the controversy of to-day, it is being fought out on familiar lines. The church has gained some ground during the last three years and is trying to keep it. The anti-church party are trying to regain what they have lost, and the bitterness of this contest is extreme.

In these circumstances Mr. Gladstone suddenly presents himself as a sort of arbiter. He has written a letter which is one more masterpiece of mystification. Neither side is agreed as to what it means. Neither can quite claim him as a champion. Neither is content with his declaration that "an un-denominational system of religion framed by or under the authority of the State is a moral monster." When he adds that "the State has no charter from heaven such as may belong to the church or the individual conscience," he uses language which both parties twist to their own purposes. When he expresses an opinion that it would be better for the State to limit itself to giving secular instruction than to adventure upon the "moral monster" system, he angers both churchmen and secularists. Everybody knows, however, where Mr. Gladstone's real sympathies are. They are with the church. The Progressives, therefore, turn upon him. They respectfully invite him to keep out of this controversy, or at least to make up his mind whether he means to take part in public life or to continue in retirement. They assure him that so long as he is half in and half out he is a terrible embarrassment to his old friends. He himself says he is anxious to spend the remainder of his days in freedom from controversy. They assure him they also are anxious that he should.

This is not the first occasion on which he has intervened. He dealt the extreme temperance party a blow under which they are still staggering, and incurred a lofty rebuke from Sir William Harcourt for his presumption, as he does now from the London Progressives. The truth is, his old followers and especially the most advanced among them, are most apprehensive that at any moment he may write a letter or express an opinion which may upset their most careful plans. He may do so on the House of Lords question. He might, with a few words, disorganize Lord Rosebery's Bradford battalions; he might strengthen them. Nobody knows which. But the Radical, and especially the Socialistic Radical, is most desirous that his old leader should hold his peace.

The Nickel Industry.

The two most important deposits of nickel ore at present known to exist are found on the island of New Caledonia and in the Province of Ontario, Canada. Large deposits of less importance occur in Norway, Sweden, Northern Italy, Germany, Austria and Russia, while ore bodies more or less extensive exist in the Provinces of Quebec, British Columbia, and New Brunswick in Canada, also in Spain, Greece, Tasmania, New South Wales, India, Great Britain, South America and in Baja California, Mexico. In the United States important deposits are found in Oregon and Nevada, while nickel is known to exist in the States of Arkansas, California,

Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, in the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico, and in the "Lake Superior region." The mines of New Caledonia and Canada supply nearly all the nickel used in commerce today, although those of Norway, Sweden, Germany, Austria and Russia furnish a small quota; but in this country very little, if any, nickel ore is mined now.

The New Caledonian ores are of a higher average grade (6 to 8 per cent nickel) than those of Canada and are more free from deleterious materials. The extent of these deposits is very great and it is stated that over 120 square miles of nickeliferous territory is being exploited by mining companies in New Caledonia at the present time. The veins are sometimes 25 feet in width, and at places the whole rock is traversed by small seams of ore forming mineralized zones which are mined for a width of over 200 feet. Only the large veins in the solid rock are operated by underground workings, the ore being mostly quarried out of the mountain side. These workings occur at points lying from 900 to 1,800 feet above sea level. The New Caledonian ores are what is known as hydrated silicates of magnesia and nickel and are intimately associated with serpentine. They are remarkably pure, containing no sulphur nor arsenic, and are free from copper. These mines can produce very large quantities of ore if there should be a demand for it; in fact, there is a tendency toward over-production even now, the value of the stock on hand in 1893 being largely in excess of that of the preceding year.

The Canadian ore-bodies consist for the main part of iron sulphide with which 2 to 3 per cent. nickel is associated—a totally different character of ore from that of New Caledonia. The nickel is accompanied by copper, which is in one respect a drawback, because the metallurgical separation of these two metals has been always attended with considerable difficulty and expense. The Canadian mines could, single-handed, easily supply the world's present requirements were they called upon to do so. The reduction of the metal from its ore has been usually accomplished by secret processes and its passage from the hands of producers into those of consumers is not readily followed. The very quantity of nickel produced in the world is a subject of controversy, different authorities placing the amount at widely varying figures. For instance, one authority places the yearly production of the world for the years 1890, 1891 and 1892, at respectively, 2,000, 2,500, 4,500 and 5,000 metric tons, while no less an authority than Mineral Industry states that the production for the years named was respectively 2,660, 5,164, and 6,077 tons. The large increase in the production of nickel during the past few years is mainly due to the introduction of the metal into material designed for war purposes, the toughness of nickel-steel having been found of considerable value in the manufacture of objects which are to be subjected to sudden and excessive stresses.—*W. L. Austin, in the Engineering Magazine for November.*

Arrest of a Burglar.

On Oct. 6, the hardware store of E. A. Weatherbee in Lincoln, was broken into in the night, and goods, consisting of guns, rifles, ammunition, etc., to the value of \$1500 were carted away. The robbers were traced to Linneus, and last Tuesday, Mr. Weatherbee, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff J. A. Stevens of Lincoln, arrived here in the afternoon. Taking with them Deputy Sheriff Lawlis of Houlton, they proceeded on their way to Linneus. At a log house, situated a mile from Linneus Corner they found their man. It was about 8 o'clock in the evening, and the lights were out. Deputy Stevens knocked at the door, and was answered by Russell, whom they at once attempted to arrest. He made a desperate resistance and drew a revolver upon the officers. Then Deputy Lawlis grappled with the man, threw and held him down until Deputy Stevens had handcuffed him. Securing Russell they brought him to Houlton and lodged him in jail. A large number of the stolen articles were found at and in the vicinity of Russell's place, which were identified by the owner, Weatherbee. Great credit is due to Deputy Sheriff Lawlis for his efficient aid in securing the prisoner in the desperate tussle in the dark. Today Russell was taken to Penobscot county for trial.—*Acrostook Times.*

Pencilings.

You can tell a young doctor from an old doctor in the dark, because when you ask the old doctor a question he doesn't answer you immediately, as if he was cock sure.

It is comparatively hard for the man who continually keeps his mouth shut to put his foot in it.

A fool can ask so many questions that only another fool will try to answer them.

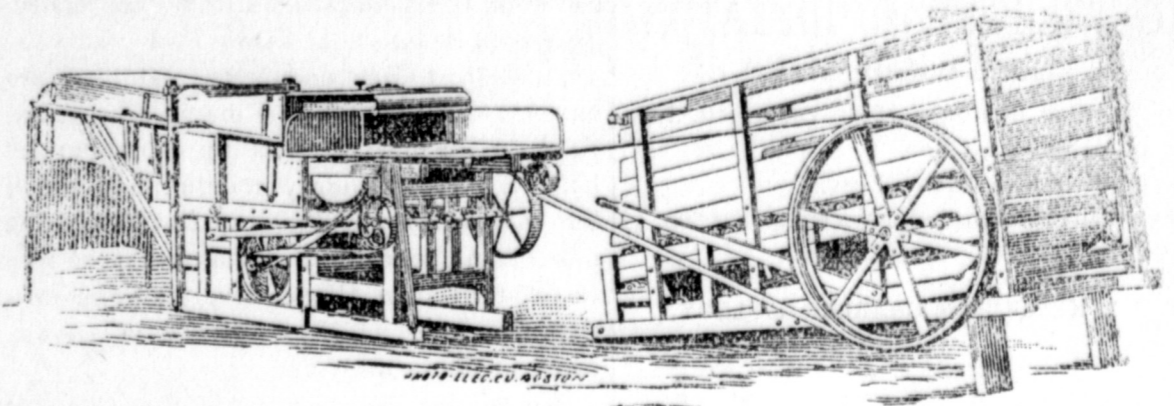
Marriage may not be a failure, but courtship often is.

Quite appropriately, "green goods" are sold chiefly to green men.

Isn't it rather pathetic that when a husband who has been married 20 years pays his wife a compliment on her good looks it makes her so happy that she has to go and tell all the neighbors what he said?

No matter how great he may have been, no man ever yet looked impressive when he was putting on a fresh starched bosom shirt.

Sometimes the best of all ways to bring up a boy is to bring him up with a round turn.—*From the Somerville Journal.*



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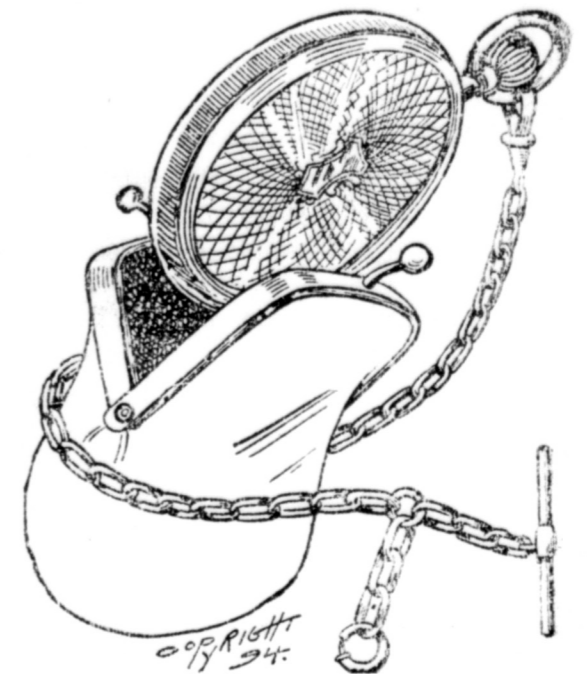
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