

## 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.

## Education of the Farmer.

To my mind this subject stands conspicuous above and beyond all other questions that concern the prosperity and happiness of all those who engage in agricultural pursuits. The farmer's education should be such as to fit him for the most exalted station in life, because his pursuit is the most essential and should be regarded as the most honorable. The farmer should be fitted to gather knowledge from every source that will aid him in comprehending nature's laws as exhibited in the intricacies of plant and animal life and upon a knowledge of which his success must largely depend. The highest object of education is to teach men to study and investigate. While education is needed by every citizen and is his inherent right, yet no other class of our people is called to fill so important a position, so diversified in its interests, and so comprehensive in its relations as is the farmer. Greater in number than any other class or even all other classes combined, yet the farmer is subject to laws which totally ignore his existence as a factor in society. The farmer may work incessantly, farm year to year while others control and fix the price of his labor and the product of his toil.

But the question here arises. How can this be accomplished? By placing a high school in every township, where every science pertaining to agriculture shall be taught by competent instructors, thereby inculcating and disseminating the knowledge obtained by scientific investigation, and introducing the latest and most improved methods employed in every department of agricultural pursuits. There the farmers' sons and daughters can acquire a suitable literary and scientific education within their reach and under and surrounded and protected by the influences of their homes. It may be asked, Why not send the boys and girls to colleges and literary institutions instead of bringing the institutions to them? I answer, when farmers' sons and daughters receive their education away from home they are lost to the farm influences; and the calling and pursuit in which their education and energy are most needed is likely to be lost sight of in the more exciting life of the city.

In addition to the establishment of high schools, every township should be organized into a farmers' Union, composed of every family engaged in agricultural pursuits, whose domicile stands within the township lines. In this Union should be consolidated the influences and attainments of the Patrons of Husbandry, the Farmers' Alliance, and all other farmers' organizations now in operation, bringing with them, and uniting, their accumulations of wisdom and experience for the common good. The building provided for the high school should have an ample hall in which the Union can assemble, not less than once each month, and discuss all questions of practical interest pertaining to agricultural pursuits. At these meetings practical knowledge should be disseminated, the results of chemical analysis of the soil, its wants and necessities, should be explained, and the best methods of supplying the lacking properties necessary to promote the successful growth and cultivation of the various crops, should be set forth in plain terms. This work should embrace all the discoveries of science that will aid the farmer in solving the vexed questions and intricate problems that are continually arising to impede his progress. He will thus be saved the costly expense of the thousands of blind experiments he has been forced to perform, in a vain endeavor to discover, with the light he possessed, the cause of a long succession of failures to reach profitable and satisfactory results.—Hon. Samuel James Logan, in the American Magazine of Civics.

## Docking of Horses.

Mr. Howland, member in the Ontario legislature, recently introduced a bill to prevent the docking of horses. It provides that whoever cuts the bones of the tail of any horse for the purpose of docking, or allowing, or consenting, or assisting in any way, or being present, shall be liable to a penalty of not less than \$100 and not more than \$300; but if a horse is found with its tail so cut, and the wound resulting from such cut unhealed, upon the premises of any person, such fact should be prima facie evidence that the person who occupies or has the use of the premises on which such horse is found has committed the offence. The same provision is made if the horse is found with its tail so cut, and the cut unhealed, in the custody of any person, such facts shall be prima facie evidence that the person having the charge or custody of such horse has committed the offence charged in section 1. In cases where the proceedings have been taken upon the information of complaint, of officer or agent of a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or humane society, one-half of fine is to be paid over to the society in aid of the benevolent objects for which it was incorporated. Any person having reason to believe

that a horse is upon any premises with its tail cut as aforesaid shall be intitled to obtain a search warrant and have the premises searched, in the same manner as search warrant are now executed.

## Advantages of Tidiness.

Tidiness is satirized by a hundred writers, and despised, as we have said, by millions; but nobody ever argues against it seriously, unless we take the allegation that strong men are never tidy to be a serious argument. It would be one, perhaps, if it were true, but it is not. Great soldiers and sailors are almost invariably tidy, Frederick of Prussia being a rather conspicuous exception. Many great lawyers have been neat to finicalness; and the same may be said of many great men of business. We should say, indeed, that as many weak men were untidy as strong men, and that of the latter a large proportion will be found to be of the dreamy or the reflective temperament.

Dreamy people hate tidiness, and the very reflective are rarely quite tidy, the reason being the same in both cases, that such persons, besides feeling the inherent dislike of most men to small recurrent exertions without immediate end, are annoyed by interruptions to the current of thought. They want, as they say, to be at peace from trifles, and as somebody usually saves them from the consequences of their ways, they remain untidy through life.

That they gain anything by their untidiness, except, possibly, some slight relief from irritability, is however, a most rash assumption. They rarely save time, for they never can find anything; they do not think more clearly, for the materials for thought are never ready at hand; and it may be questioned if their habit adds even to their mental peace.—The Spectator.

## At the Crucifixion.

If some astronomical calculations recently made may be believed, the planets which gravitate around the sun will this month, about Easter time, be in relatively the same position in the heavens as they were in the spring of 29, A. D., which is the year when Jesus Christ is generally supposed to have been crucified and to have risen from the dead. Not since that time has this coincidence recurred. Each of the heavenly bodies has its own time for making a revolution around the sun, and these times differ widely. The earth, as everybody knows, goes around once every year. Mercury takes but a quarter of this time, while Saturn is employed for nearly thirty years in making a circuit of the path laid out for him. Consequently in all these hundreds of years, they have never yet moved into the same positions which they occupied in the month of April, 29, A. D. Neither are they expected by astronomers to be in exactly the same position as they were then, for the attraction of other planets and of the sun has caused variations in their respective cycles during these eighteen centuries. It is for this reason that the recurrence of a similar condition of the skies possesses no scientific interest to the astronomer. But to the millions of Christian people all over the world, says the Baltimore Sun, it is an important coincidence that they should see, during Holy Week of this year, the heavenly bodies almost as they were when Christ looked up to them nightly in the rapid succession of events which marked the fortnight preceding His crucifixion. That the last year which Christ spent upon earth was really the year 29, A. D., is a question which is not settled. It and each of the four years succeeding it have been named by Biblical scholars who have compared the chronology of events mentioned in the New Testament with the dates as given in Josephus and the best Roman historians. Christ is supposed to have been thirty-three years old when His life upon this earth was ended. His crucifixion occurs in the thirty-third year of what is called the Christian era. But the Christian era was first invented by a learned monk called Dionysius Exiguus, and it is now admitted that its inventor made an error in his calculation of at least four years, and that the birth of Christ really occurred in the year which is now called 4 B. C. This would make 29 A. D., the most probable date for His crucifixion. But the Encyclopedia Britannica and a number of German scholars favor 30, A. D., and this would make Eastertide of next year, and not this year, the date at which the similar position of the planets can be recalled.

## The Journey of the House.

I do not believe you ever heard of a house skating, but this winter in Maine a house was put on skates, and accomplished a journey across a lake successfully. The house was moved at the rate of eight miles a day. It was drawn to the top of a hill beside the lake by twenty yoke of oxen, having first been placed on sharp iron shoes. When all was in readiness, the house coasted down the hill and on to the lake, where the oxen were again hitched and the house was drawn on its skates across the lake and then along the road to its destination. A foundation was built under it, and soon it was the home again of the little children who had followed it on its journey.

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