

Farmer's Department.

BOARDING FARM HANDS.

The Weekly Times strongly disapproves of the common practice of hiring a farmer's wife to serve as a mental farm laborer, and then says: The writer has been a farmer for more than thirty years—first in the West where it was a new country, in the East, and in the South. He has always employed laborers steadily for the whole year, hiring by the month. But except for a few weeks at the first start not a hired man was ever taken into the house. A short experience at the beginning was so cruelly awakening to the enormity of the crime cast upon the patient wife, that the practice was stopped at once. No time was given for this first impression to be effaced and the conscience hardened by familiarity with a gross evil, but the man's dwelling on sight. It would have been vastly preferable to have given up the dwelling to the men and lived in a tent or a bark camp and enjoy the privacy of the family and freedom of the evening labor and care. The dwelling for the hired man was put up; the money was borrowed for the purpose, but it was a pleasure to economize to save the money for payment of the loan. And the practice thus begun has been kept up ever since.

THE MARAUDERS.

When the honey-flow is over, and there is very little to be gathered, there is danger of one colony of bees robbing another. If an unguarded matter of bees is allowed to enter a hive and escape with a load to its own hive, the bees there will be quick to detect it, and the robber will go back with a dozen excited bees determined to have some of that honey or else. If the entrance is not strongly guarded they will be apt to get in. Then a still larger crowd comes next time; the excitement runs high; battle ensues, and bees of other hives are drawn into the fuss, and the long array of bees is allowed to enter. On the unfortunate hive and clean it up in a few minutes. Like a lion that has tasted blood, their fury is aroused and they are ready for other victims. The robber colony is unable to withstand the first assault. To guard against such disastrous proceedings, we must be particular in opening hives during a dearth of honey-flow, and not let robbing commence. The entrance should be guarded by cracks whereby a prowling robber-bee may sneak in to get the coveted treasure. Then keep the entrance contracted to correspond with the strength of the colony, so that they may be able to defend it. In one case one real good case of wholesale robbing on his hands, will never forget it; and for the time being, at least, he will wish he never saw a bee.—J. M. Jenkins, in Southern Cultivator.

YOUNG SWINE.

James Cheeseman, Toronto, Canada, in a pamphlet on "The Swine Industry," says: "Some milk not only makes double the solids of skim-milk from a cow, but five times as much fat as will be found in Cooley creamer skim-milk, and five and one-half times as much as exists in separated milk. The mineral matter, or bone growth, is also increased. It is often found, hence the urgency of full supplies of cut fodder and grain to supply the phosphoric acid and lime. A young sow must not do more than properly feed in her milk a larger amount of dry matter for the growth of her young than a dairy cow three times her weight. Prof. Manly Mill found by experiment that Essex pigs consumed three and one-third pounds of milk each per day for the first week. A litter of ten or twelve would therefore require the milk of two ordinary cows for their support during the second week, if the demands of their growth were properly supplied. Facts such as these claim from pig breeders great attention and careful observation to enable them to identify the sow suckling a large litter. No wonder the less observing men fail to rear large litters when in too many cases they are unable to comprehend the power of early growth in infant pigs. There is no greater test of knowledge and sound judgment in the agriculturist than ability to understand and provide for the wants of pigs and other animals during the most critical period of early infancy. It may be taken for granted that the secret of success is centered here, and that no amount of attention and food supplied at the later stages of growth will at all compensate for that lost or sacrificed during the first three weeks. We are very much indebted to the advance guard of American thinkers and workers for the patience, perseverance and courage with which they have pursued their work. The experiments are very highly the work of the experiment stations in determining the rate of growth, the most economical period within which to make marketable hogs, and the cheapest mode of feeding, paying proper regard to the value of manure residues.

CONCORD GRAPES.

The Concord grape season along the Hudson valley is now at its height, and never before was there so prolific and so fine a crop grown. The vines fairly groan with the weight of the beautiful fruit. The heaviest shipments were last week made from the following points in the order named: Highland, Marlborough, Milton, Tivoli, Germantown, Esopus, New Paltz, Cliftondale, Catskill, Coxsack, Walkill, Middleboro, and from other points on the Hudson. The shipments will continue to be made steadily all through October. The lines of boats and the express facilities offered on the West Shore Railroad will be taxed for several weeks to come. There is something in the climate and in the soil of the counties of Ulster, Orange, Greene, Dutchess, and Columbia that is peculiarly adapted to the propagation of the Concord variety of grapes. From now on there will be no scarcity of Concord in the Hudson valley markets, and at prices within the reach of all.

VALUE OF INTELLIGENCE IN HORSES.

In selecting a family horse (says the Boston Post), the first requisite is intelligence. If the animal be intelligent, he is pretty sure to be safe; whereas even a gentle horse, who is stupid, is always a source of possible danger. He may be so lazy and lifeless that the most prudent woman could not fear to drive; and yet if he lacks mind, he is pretty sure to kick the carriage to pieces or run away whenever anything frightens him. On the other hand, it is almost impossible to care a really intelligent horse. He may be disconcerted or alarmed, but he won't lose his head. It is, however, astonishing how little interest in this all-important question of intellect the usual horse-dealer takes. The reason probably is that he feels perfectly competent to manage any horse, no matter what the animal's character may be, and he regards him simply as a beast of burden, and not in the least as a companion or friend. An acquaintance mine sent a very shrewd journey to Kentucky for the purpose of selecting a saddle horse. He brought back a handsome animal, thoroughly trained, and perfectly satisfactory to his new owner. But anybody who had studied horses' eyes, would have seen at a glance that the high-priced "saddler" was a fool, and so he turned out to be, for he was easily frightened, and finally ran away, and had to be sold in disgrace. To this the Indiana Farmer responds: The extent of intelligence in the horse is dependent upon his breeding very largely. A well-bred horse is nearly always intelligent, and those who will not breed can rarely be relied on in this respect. We once had a horse to run away with a vehicle by being severely hit on the hind legs. A friend said the horse was ruined as a driver, and we replied "Not so, for it was intelligent, being well bred." And so it proved. He was an excellent and reliable buggy horse always after, as before running away. Blood tells.

RURAL AND FARM NOTES.

A large part of Utah is thought to be underlain with a stratum of water, which may be reached by boring wells from 100 to 200 feet deep. These wells flow bountifully.

In planting an orchard it is best to use trees one or two years from the bud or graft, as these are less costly, are easiest handled and planted, and are more likely to live than large trees, which will bear just as soon.

The crop of Concord grapes in the Hudson River Valley this year is the largest and finest ever grown. Speculators are said to be buying up hundreds of tons to store for use in December.

Last year 10,000,000 bushels of peanuts were imported into Massachusetts. France, as pressed for oil, very little of which was sold under its proper name, most of it being put on the market as olive oil. The residual pomace is employed in adulterating chocolate.

A farmer at Santa Clara, Cal., bored an arroyo some 400 feet deep, and found the soil black and just as rich at that depth as at the surface, and when raked up and sown with cucumber and other seed, it grew them just as well as that at the surface. The soil, which will be denominated an "inexhaustible soil."

The country is not to be deprived of its cranberry sauce with the Thanksgiving turkey, after all. The frost which recently did so much damage in New England, and was supposed to have well-nigh destroyed the Cape Cod cranberry crop, proves to have done little injury, except to a few bogs in unfavorable locations, and there promises to be a satisfactory yield.

Whenever roads are cut into rural and hilly country by wagon-wheels, says an exchange, it shows that the roads are too narrow. These wheels, making it smooth and hard, and operate like the roller on the garden walk. Farmers would benefit themselves and the whole community in which they live by using only broad tires on their heavy wagons.

The sop to the Labor Cerebra, known as the bill to abolish the use of steam in the printing of Treasury certificates, etc., ought to be amended so as to prohibit the manufacture of pulleys, cotton gins, sewing-machines, grain elevators, patent reapers, and all other mechanical devices calculated to reduce the demand for manual labor. The lengths to which the inventive genius of the country has carried its astonishing, and challenge the serious attention of the Congressional humanitarians.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Commissioner of Agriculture is trying to develop silk culture and learn if it can be made a profitable industry in this country. Congress has been liberal in its appropriations for its encouragement. The sum allowed during the present fiscal year is \$30,000; \$20,000 of which is to be expended in the Department of Agriculture; \$5,000 by the Women's Silk Culture Association of the United States at Philadelphia; and \$2500 by the Ladies Silk Culture Society of California; and \$2500 by Joseph Newman of California. The prospect for success does not yet seem very hopeful.

A Pennsylvania correspondent of the Weekly Tribune tells of two kinds of road-masters in two adjoining districts in his neighborhood. One, he says, has had charge of the same road for three years, and has greatly improved it in that time, with no increase of tax. He is often over the road, doing a little here and a little there, but very carefully keeping out the water. The other road is managed on the usual plan of doing a good deal of work in the summer, and giving little or no attention afterward. The first man seems to think the office an honor, and certainly honors the office by making the roads much better than they ever were before.

The Weekly Times says: "An orchard of 2000 Dutchess dwarfs has always found one single purchaser for the fruit at prices 50 per cent. in advance of the regular market rates, because the whole lot of fruit could be made up in one or two crates, and packed separately, and all the packages were alike. It is the same with apples; an orchard of Newtown Pippins solely has its crop engaged in advance for ten years on a regular contract, and another orchard of the same variety under contract in the same way. Had these orchards been made up of twenty or forty different kinds the product would have been peddled about."

A better orchard fertilizer than wood-ashes does not exist. Save and use all you have, both in your orchard and elsewhere. Don't be afraid to apply liberally. This speaks the Orchard and Garden, and the advice accords with the experience of the Indiana Farmer, which adds: "Our pear trees are heavily loaded, so much so that they are bent over, and the fruit is heavy. This is due to the use of other fertilizers. Coal ashes are beneficial, and if wood ashes cannot be had, use the other kind and you will be pleased with the result."

CORN FODDER.

It is highly probable remarks The Vermont Chronicle that in whatever form it is to be fed, the corn that is raised in the State is of a quality that will nearly or quite mature in the climate where it is planted. If it is a fact that corn full in the milk has reached its maximum nutritive quality, it may grow, for food or ensilage, in any climate, and will find somewhat too late, in an average season, to mature a crop of fully ripened grain. Therefore, in Northern New England and Canada, the Sanford corn, which does really produce a crop of ensilage, is so far to be preferred to the latter for dry fodder, or for the silo. The next point, and one which has been too much neglected, is the question of thick corn for the silo. It is the little doubt that much of the corn planted, both for fodder and ensilage, is planted too thickly. It is our own judgment that for these purposes there is no gain in planting more thickly for fodder than for silage, and that the same is true for ensilage. The corn that is planted in abundance for its perfect development, and these it cannot have, if too close planting is practised. Still another point is the one of maturity, and here again we say that you can hardly be too early in cutting corn for silage, if you have planted it. There is no difference in the work we must do, except at harvest, upon a poor or rich cornfield, and surely the extra crop is worth the extra labor of handling it.

A HAZARDOUS PROJECT.

The actual or assumed pumping of the Saratoga mineral springs by one over-ambitious proprietor to the Hudson, to prevent the rise and flow of water from his neighbors' fountains, has begun to assume features that will cause apprehension, not only among the spring hotel proprietors, but as well of those of the grand hotels and other land-owners in the famous Spa. It is printed in yesterday's Saratoga Union that the Seltzer Spring property on Spring avenue in that village has been sold by Dr. J. P. Hensel to Ernest Lavandeyra, a wealthy Cuban, who is said to be backed by \$1,000,000 capital. The spring building will be converted into a factory for the purpose of compressing the carbonic acid gas contained in the spring into a liquid. It is thought that the works will be in operation by January next. Mr. Oscar Brunler, who is connected with the purchaser, has a patent on the system that will be used to separate the gas from the water. The machinery is being made in Germany. The gas, it is explained, will be compressed into tubes holding 20 pounds each. The factory will have a capacity at the start of 250 tubes a day, or 5000 pounds of carbonic acid gas. As the business grows, the capacity of the works will be increased. There is enough gas in the water to make 5000 tubes, or 100,000 pounds a day. The plant complete will cost about \$75,000.

If the scheme proves a success in capturing and holding the gas escaping freely from the artesian bore of the Seltzer, the temptation will arise for its proprietors to increase the yields by means of pumping. It has been shown by actual and acknowledged experiments made in pumping the High Rock Spring

in 1868, that all the springs in Saratoga are symmetrical—that is, the supply of carbonic acid gas which causes their waters to flow to the surface, and gives them their active pungent qualities, is distilled in the same retort, for when the pump was applied to it, all the springs in the valley from the Congress to the Empire felt its effects. And recently disturbances in the flow of the Congress and Ainsworth's new Favorite Spring have been ascribed to the use of a pump in the Hathorn Spring. The latter is a few rods south from the High Rock, and before S. Nor. Lavandeyra and Her Brunler proposed to invest their millions in the gaseous project, they should feel the pulse of the native Saratogian land-owners and the people of the valley. The law of this State granting the power of a land-owner to do what he pleases, is as follows: "A man may do what he chooses on his own land, provided that he does not injure the property of his neighbors, or that he is a nuisance to the neighborhood or public health.—Albany Argus, Sept. 16.

SAVED BY A HYMN.

The Rev. Theodor Brown contributes the following interesting bit of early history to the Congregationalist:

Visitors to New Paltz, Ulster county, N. Y., may see upon the ancient land records the deed of land sold to the Indians by the Dutch, to wit, a tract twelve miles square "for and in consideration of forty axes, forty kettles, forty adzes, four hundred strings of white beads, three hundred strings of black beads, fifty pairs of stockings, one hundred knives, four quarter casks of wine, forty jars, sixty cleaving-knives, sixty blankets, one hundred needles, one hundred awls, and one cask pipe." The deed is dated the 12th of May, 1677, and the purchasers were Huguenots. These Huguenots, refugees from France, had come to Kingston twelve years before; and this thrilling episode of their early fortunes is a tradition connected with the village, and arrived barely in time to stop the barbarous preparations before the prisoners' lives were sacrificed. Dubois and his men fell upon the camp, and soon routed the Indians, and carried away the women and children safe again, he had time to contemplate the fate she had just escaped. Mrs. Dubois told him that the savages had placed her on a pile of dry wood, to a certain point in the forest, he would find the Indian camp, where his wife and children were; but that he must go in haste, for the savages would soon put the captives to torture and death. The unhappy man started immediately, with a company of men, through the wilderness, and arrived barely in time to stop the barbarous preparations before the prisoners' lives were sacrificed. Dubois and his men fell upon the camp, and soon routed the Indians, and carried away the women and children safe again, he had time to contemplate the fate she had just escaped. 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