

FARM & GARDEN

PRICKLY COMFREY.

An Intensive Dairyman Who Finds It His Best Crop for Cows.

The area required for June pasture had been the weak point in intensive dairying with me, but by the adoption of prickly comfrey, so as to bridge over the time from the usual turning out to grass up to haying, a great and sure supply of the best fodder is obtained, and a small run at pasture for air and exercise only is required. Planted in rows three feet apart, sixteen inches apart in the rows, top dressed liberally and well cultivated in the spring, prickly comfrey by the last of May will grow waist high and too thick to allow one to pass through it readily. In a moist season several cuttings may be made.

With a scythe and fork one may cut and heap it more rapidly than any other early soiling crop, and a mowing machine is scarcely needed, so small is the area required at each feeding. It is eaten by my cows with the greatest avidity, and is fed as an alternative to the working cattle and horses which, being stabled the entire year, are much benefited by it, especially as it is not so laxative as green rye or clover.

Prickly comfrey is an enormous yielder; it will produce more nutriment, perhaps more weight, from a given area than Indian corn, provided moisture enough be present. It shows a nutritive analysis closely approaching that of clover; it produces cream of the finest flavor; it is almost medicinal in its wholesomeness; once established it is the most easily grown crop on the farm. Why, then, has it been tried and condemned so generally? Simply because the taste for it is one acquired against the will of the animal.

A cow will starve rather than eat freshly cut comfrey leaves. Run them through a cutter and mix them with an equal portion of corn meal and bran, and the cow in trying to get at the meal will soon acquire for the comfrey a taste never afterward to be forgotten. I have now to educate the young stock only. I am surprised that this little matter of education should have stood so long in the way of adopting a forage plant of great merit.

The permanent comfrey plot should be close to the stables for convenience, and requires little room, so that more pasturage is thus saved near the stables than when rye, clover, oats and peas are used. The labor is less than with crops which, grown in rotation, must often be at a distance. As apple growing is my specialty, and it demands much attention, the dairy is managed with the least labor consistent with good results.

The cream is taken from the door on the co-operative system and the manure is all saved and most easily cared for by using self cleaning platforms; and by growing intensive crops the entire area required lies close to the buildings.

Thirty-five head of cattle and horses are now kept on the seventy acres here in Dutchess county, N. Y. It would be quite as easy to double the stock, but whether the profit would be doubled is doubtful. It would seem that partial soiling may lessen the cost of stock keeping, since the same expense in taxes and interest on land answers for a larger amount of stock and drives to pasture are shortened, but the high cost of labor may make complete soiling too costly as yet for general adoption.—M. H. Hart in Rural New Yorker.

Cattle Sales.

The results of the spring sales of cattle emphatically impress the great truth that the market for really worthy specimens of the various breeds is as constant as the rising and the setting of the sun. It is only the common stuff that drops out of sight in periods of general depression. There has never been a time in our experience when outstanding quality and merit met with quicker recognition than now. The man who breeds a horse, a bull, a sheep or a hog that clearly overtops the average of the breed is absolutely certain of a good price for such product of his skill. Do not mistake depression in culls and weeds for a lack of activity in "tops."

The fact that there is no longer any money in propagating mere pedigrees should serve to render the calling and election of the legitimate breeder and improver of a race all the more certain. Exceptionally choice animals may be (and as a matter of fact really are) exceedingly difficult to produce even from the most carefully chosen sires and dams, but the reward of the breeder who succeeds in establishing high average quality is sufficiently generous as to

be worthy of the most zealous efforts of intelligent men. Breed for the top.—Breeder's Gazette.

Live Stock Points.

Keep a few lively chickens in the stable and give them access to a broad sill at the window. They will catch every fly. Fowls are among the horse's best friends.

Experiments in fattening grade Shropshire lambs at the Michigan agricultural experiment station show that roots are better for this purpose than silage; that lambs may be fattened without a heavy grain ration, and that the ration containing the higher percentage of digestible albuminoids gives the best results.

The street car companies desire horses of medium weight and size for their work. A large infusion of draft blood is not good, they say, because draft horses are apt to have poor feet.

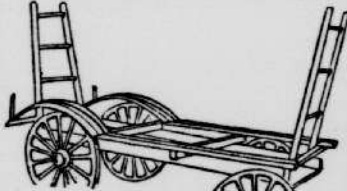
The American fat stock and horse shows will be held at the Union stock yards, Chicago, Nov. 16 to 26, under the auspices of the Illinois state board of agriculture. Ten thousand dollars in cash premiums will be given.

There is not a trace of foot and mouth disease in either Shropshire or Oxfordshire, England. Those importing animals from these localities need therefore have no fear, and Secretary Rusk need have no fear. The worst case of foot and mouth disease in Great Britain is that of the vociferous Mr. Chaplin, the minister of agriculture, whom the mention of American pork throws into hysterics.

A Model Wagon Rack.

The wagon rack illustrated in the accompanying cut was built by the students of the North Carolina Agricultural college last season. The report upon it is that it can be placed on any farm wagon by lengthening out the reach to suit the length of the rack. It has been found suitable for the convenient and easy loading of hay, grain or corn fodder.

The list of materials, which cost \$7.46 in Raleigh, is as follows: Two sills 2 by 6 inches by 14 feet dressed on two sides, four pieces 1½ by 3 inches by 3½ feet,



A CONVENIENT WAGON RACK.

four cross pieces 3 by 4 inches by 6½ feet, two boards 1 by 9 inches by 13 5-6 feet, two boards 1 by 4½ inches by 13 5-6 feet, four side pieces 1 by 4 inches by 8 2-3 feet, six bows 1 by 3 by 6 1-6 feet. The two ladders take four pieces 1½ by 3 inches by 6½ feet, two pieces 1½ by 2 inches by 2½ feet, two pieces 1½ by 2 inches by 2½ feet, two rounds 3 7-12 feet long, two stakes at the hind corners 1½ by 1½ by 20 inches, twelve oak pins ¾ by 3 inches. There are two blocks needed under the front crosspiece 4 by 4 by 2½ inches, four under the second crosspiece 1½ by 2½ by 4 inches. The bolts needed are two carriage bolts ½ by 14 inches, six ½ by 10 inches, four ¾ by 7 inches, sixteen ¾ by 5 inches, four ¾ by 3½ inches, twenty ¼ by 2½ inches, eight screws of ¼ inch wire, 2 inches long, and fourteen washers.

News and Notes.

An increase of 50 per cent. is expected in the rice crop of the United States this season.

Wisconsin appropriates \$12,000 per year for institute work. Seventy-six farmers' institutes were held in that state last year.

Ohio held 124 institutes last year at a cost of less than \$3,000.

Readers interested in the third exhibition of the New York and New England Agricultural and Industrial society, to be held on the Albany fair grounds during the week beginning Sept. 19, can obtain the premium list by application to the secretary, J. C. Cuyler, 445 Broadway, Albany.

The returns for the census for cereal crops indicate a very decided increase in the acreage of oats in several of the western states, notable changes in the wheat area and a large increase of corn acreage in the west.

A St. Louis man has taken out a patent for an electric jail. He runs wires through channels in all the bars and gratings, and between the stones or plates of the walls, ceilings and floors of his prison. By connecting their ends to a suitable alarm mechanism and keeping a current flowing through them any disturbance or attempt at escape transmits a signal.

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Religion and Temperance

WHAT CHRIST CAN DO.

In Order to Understand Him We Must Be in Sympathy with His Life.

What can Christ do for me? He has the power to keep on enlightening my mind, purifying my heart and building up my character more perfectly into himself. Lessing, the great German critic and indefatigable student, felt at one period in his life that he had exhausted the power of the chief works of literature and philosophy. His mind could no longer grow on them. But it is not so with Christ. He is never exhausted. He can do for us more and more. His words are newer and fresher after every experience; they are spirit and life after we have grown weary of Homer and Shakespeare, and wearier still of earthly achievements and enjoyments.

Christ has just begun his work for me. He can so transform me that when men see me and think of me they will think of Bethlehem and Capernaum and Calvary. This is what he has often done and his power is unexhausted. What can Christ do for me? He can do above all that we ask or think, if we are willing. But Christ cannot do anything for me that he most wishes to do unless I am willing. I block his power, though it be omnipotent love, by my resolute "I will not," or by my blank indifference. He may be able to pardon, transform and glorify me, and I may go down to my grave unregenerate and forgiven. We must know Christ by the heart or we cannot know him at all. We must enter into sympathy with his life by living the same life; we shall never understand the cross till we bear the cross. It is foolish to praise self sacrifice without being self sacrificing. We can no more absorb the cross into our being through the reason than we can analyze the sunbeam with a razor:

O hearts of love, O souls that turn
Like sunflowers to the pure and best!
To you the truth is manifest.
For they the mind of Christ discern,
Who lean, like John, upon his breast!

—Rev. J. H. Barrows, D. D., in Independent.

How to Pray.

In order that prayer may be always manly, womanly, truly human, let it be in all ways sincere. Say and do those things that serve to bring you nearer in feeling to your God. Kneel when you pray, if that action comes spontaneously as a true way of forgetting the self in higher things. Bow down in prayer, not to be seen by others, nor in the way of shocking your own self reliance, but do it when the act seems to fit the mood, and to express your glad reverence for all that is better than yourself.

When the body bows thus, the soul is looking up into the very face of the eternal. This upward look of the soul is the essence of prayer—a brave and hopeful lifting up of the spirit of a man. When any one is cast down, forsaken, crushed, imperiled or in any other way stricken let him not yield to the mood of fear or of sorrow, but rather let the spirit hold itself erect and manful, face to face with the light eternal, heart to heart with God, the life that is larger than ours.

All such prayer is rich in reasonableness, strong in helpfulness, noble in its manliness. The progress of souls rests upon such prayer. It is the mainstay of civilization, the angel of the home, the comforter of men in trouble and their guide in darkness. It is victory over sin. Learn then its simple wisdom, choose its manly way, and so advance into your grander life.—Rev. C. E. St. John in Christian Register.

Let Christians Take Heart.

Zacchaeus is proof of a wonderful susceptibility in men to radical and wide transformation in spirit, temper and aim in life, within a very short compass of time, even in adult years. He belonged to a class of men proverbial for selfish greed of money and was rich as a publican. He desired to see Jesus who he was. Who would not want to see the man whose name was on every tongue, and of whom such marvelous things were told? He sees him from the sycamore tree. He is called to entertain him, and prepares a dinner for him. The words and spirit of Christ enter his heart and make him a new man.

Justice, including reparation and marked generosity, are in his heart. "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor, and if I have wrongfully exacted aught from any one I restore fourfold." The publican becomes in a day, on the lineage of faith, a son of Abraham. That day salvation came to that house. Let Christians take heart in their work. The Gospel is still "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."—Christian Inquirer.

DRINK IN EUROPE.

It Is Universal and Its Evil Effects Are Everywhere.

Are the people of Europe entirely given over to the use of spirituous liquors? Such is the impression gained by the casual American tourist. Wherever his travels may lead him, in Great Britain or on the Continent, he sees the people indulging, without scruple and without restraint, in every kind of alcoholic drink. If he comes from a temperance community or has strong temperance principles his moral nature receives many severe shocks during the first days of his European travel or residence. But he very soon comes to understand that the use of liquor, in one form or another, is universal; that there is a deep seated conviction in the European mind that God made water for washing purposes, not for drinking, as a German lady once expressed it to the writer's sister.

Americans are accustomed to attribute to this universal use of intoxicants many of the social and moral evils which now disturb and distress European countries. After a long and careful study of the matter we believe this to be a rightful judgment. Scandinavia stands at the head of the European temperance movement. Here a temperance reform was sadly needed, for while beer and wine are not consumed to as large an extent as in some other countries, yet these northern people have been, and are, deplorably addicted to the use of stronger liquors—brandy and whisky. It may be that in these Scandinavian countries the movement is largely due to the medical profession, though they are, as a rule, supported by the clergy.

Germany is, as we are accustomed to regard her, the land of beer drinking, and with Germany may be associated in this respect Holland, Belgium, Austria, and perhaps Switzerland. It is, however, a mistake to suppose that drinking in these countries is limited to beer. Schnapps, gin or brandy, is very largely consumed by every class of people; wine is largely used by the better classes. To what excess beer drinking is carried in these countries we know too well. It is vain for the advocate of a moderate use of the lighter liquors to refer to Germany as an example of the beneficent results of such a use. Granted that there is less real drunkenness in Germany than with us, yet we doubt if the evil effects are in the end less. The German drinks, as he does everything else, slowly and deliberately, but at the same time persistently, and the deleterious effects of this continual taking into the system of alcohol show themselves sooner or later.

Sometimes we hear it affirmed that the German beer will not intoxicate. But any German will laugh at the idea. "Of course it will intoxicate," he will tell you, "if you drink enough of it, just as whisky and brandy will." Nowhere can beer drinking be studied so thoroughly as among the German students. With them drunkenness is no uncommon thing. We have time and again seen them thoroughly intoxicated from beer drinking. There is to them nothing disgraceful about it.

A student will tell you in a very matter of fact way that he had to be carried home from the Kneipe the night before. And everywhere in the German universities can one perceive the injurious effects of this habit. We have seen the most promising men come up to the university, and in two or three semesters become utter wrecks, solely from their indulgence in beer. We have heard students of wide experience refer to innumerable such cases. And these students may be taken as representative of the German male population in this matter of beer drinking. Beer is freely used by German women, but is not drunk to such an excess as among the men.

Economists are bringing forward a startling array of statistics relative to the effects of alcoholism on the nation. For example, it has been recently shown that 1,500,000 of the working population are engaged in the liquor traffic, and that about one-fourth of the productive soil of Germany is given to the raising of the vegetable productives of alcohol. Such figures show a waste of economic energy that no government can disregard. Medical experts are declaring that beer is directly responsible for very many of the prevalent diseases, especially those of a nervous character. Army officers declare that it is almost impossible to make good soldiers out of the beer drinking recruits. Many clergymen and professors are beginning to realize the impossibility of religious advancement among a people given to alcoholism.

In France both wine and beer and brandy are excessively used, and the evil effects of intemperance are generally evident and admitted.—Mitchell Brook in Christian Inquirer.

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