

FOR THE FARMERS.

Some Interesting News for the Ruralist

SPOKEN OF IN THIS COLUMN.

A Few Sensible Hints to Suit the Busy Agriculturist.—Items That May Benefit our Readers.

The Value of Pedigree in Seeds.

Every thoughtful farmer knows well the value of a good pedigree in the animals he breeds on the farm. He would never think of breeding a trotter from an English cart horse, nor a milk and butter cow from a family bred for generations for beef. But when we come to the seeds from which the crops of the farm and garden are grown, there is a disposition to get that which is cheapest. A scrub animal is always cheaper than a thoroughbred, and a good seed is always more costly than a poor one. Seeds are not always poor simply because they refuse to grow, for some of the poorest seeds grow more readily than the best ones of the same species. The weeds that infest our fields, and which have survived in the struggle for existence, have a greater vitality than the seeds of plants that have always known the fostering care of man. When you remove an animal far from natural conditions and refine it, there is far more care needed to rear it than is needed by the wild boar of the forest. So also with our plants. The more we refine and specialize them the more care is needed. The wild progenitors of our cabbages and cauliflowers could take care of themselves and survive on the cliffs along the sea beach, but the refined plants we cultivate would soon perish along with the wildings. Plants cultivated for garden crops especially have long been trained into races that have come to inherit certain tendencies from their ancestors, and it is the care of the seed grower to intensify the good traits that have thus been inherited and to weed out the "rogues" or tendency to revert to an inferior ancestor. And to the care with which this is

done we owe the improved strains we have today. All experienced seedsmen know how important this matter of race is, and hence they test in actual cultivation the seeds they propose to sell before putting them on the market, so that they can be sure that the proper care has been taken to secure the purity of the stock. There are many people who seem to think that nothing is needed but to be sure that the seed sold have a certain percentage of vitality, and the Department of Agriculture at Washington has tried to establish certain standards obtained from laboratory sprouting of seeds, and wish to insist that all seeds of the several varieties sold should come up to their standard of germination. Men of experience in garden matters know well that a mere sprouting testinal laboratory has little value to the practical cultivator. It tells him nothing of the pedigree of the seed, and it may be that a sample that would fall far below the standard of the laboratory will be worth far more to the gardener than the sample that showed high germinating power. The test which the seedsmen makes on his trial farm is worth far more to the practical cultivator than all the laboratory tests in the world. Until the Government subjects the seeds to the same kind of a test, the market gardeners will pay more attention to the strain than to the standard of germination.—Practical Farmer.

This Year's State Fair.

A few weeks ago, in noting the energetic action of the State Board of Agriculture in preparations for this year's State Fair, we advised our readers of the advisability of giving extra attention to this display this year, and we hope they will do so. There are at least two main lines upon which the value of an unusually varied and complete exhibit of State products this year can be strongly urged. First, we are going through the worst year, so far as rainfall goes, which the State has experienced since the American occupation. It is immensely desirable that we should show, both for our own encouragement and for the information of the world, what California can do at the close of the century in such a year. A quarter of a century ago such a year would have temporarily flattened nearly everything; now we are going through the year with an amount of confidence and activity and success which is a surprise even to our own people. Such inherent strength in our industries is of incalculable importance and cannot help but attract the attention of investors and home seekers. Now let these facts be emphasized by a great display of California products this year. There is plenty of the best to be had; let each one make selections and exhibit them. This applies to every kind of product and such exhibitions can be made exceptionally instructive if attention is given to showing the results secured by the thousands of farm irrigation plants which have been put in this year. Aside from this, we would especially urge attention to the live stock exhibit. Every breeder who can show good animals of any kind should be at the fair this year. There is going to be a sharp demand for re-

stocking our pastures this fall and winter, and people to our own knowledge are already looking about for available stock and for improved sires of all breeds, so that the new inhabitants of our fields may be of higher grade than those driven away by the drought. The State Agricultural Society is especially organized to promote improvement of this kind, and breeders should rally to the support of the society in this year's display. In this way they can consult their own business interests and advance the general welfare.

Another main reason why we hope this year's State Fair will be an industrial exhibition of the broadest scope and variety is because California is now in the public eye as she has never been before. Thousands are moving through toward the different Pacific regions—north, south and west—where American interests are now advancing so rapidly. All these people should go forth with some idea of California's producing ability in all industrial lines. This distant activity is destined to produce a most marked effect upon our export trade, and such effect can be promoted by enterprising display of our products and manufactures this fall.

We hope this year's announcement of the State Board of Agriculture will, as we have said, command unusual attention and that all will begin at once the plans and preparations for displays which will be fitly expressive of our resources and the enterprise of our people.—Pacific Rural Press.

Poultry Points.

Under present conditions it is of no use to undertake the keeping of fancy poultry to sell again as breeders unless willing to keep first-class fowls and keep them in a first-class condition, and, in addition, every opportunity must be taken advantage of for improvement. A careful selection of the best to be kept for breeding will help wonderfully in at least maintaining good quality, while in a majority of cases it will be a great help in improving the flock.

One advantage with poultry-keeping is that it can be combined, or rather made auxiliary to other pursuits on the farm without infringing, and can be made to bring in a handsome return. It is in this way that in a majority of cases poultry can be made most profitable on the farm. It is an exceptional case when it is best to make a specialty of poultry on the farm, but when kept in connection with the other work of the farm can nearly always be made profitable.

One of the cheapest plans of keeping down vermin is to whitewash everything inside the poultry house frequently and then clean up the droppings regularly and scatter good dressing of sandy loam over the floor. If this is done regularly, not only can lice be kept down, but better health with the fowls maintained, as the lime whitewash will not only destroy lice but will act as a disinfectant, while clean soil is one of the best disinfectants that can be used.

With the early-hatched turkeys in many cases it is an item to get them ready for market reasonably early in

the fall. When this is the case it is always best to commence feeding them in good season. Give them a light feed of whole corn night and morning.

Commence with a small quantity at first and then gradually increase until, at night at least, they are given all that they will eat up clean. Gradually get them into such a condition that only a short feed with a full fattening ration is necessary to properly finish for market. In addition to securing better fowls in every way when ready to market, feeding them in this way will induce them to come home regularly at night. Then, having them in good condition in good season will afford a better opportunity for taking advantage of the market.

Now is a good time to select a site to build a house especially for the poultry. Poultry must have a comfortable shelter during the winter if they are to be kept healthy and yield good returns, and this shelter should be a separate building away from the other stock. It need not be a fancy or costly house; warm, dry and convenient are the essentials, and with a little planning this may be secured at a small cost. The location should be dry and readily drained. The size must be determined by the number and kind of fowls to be kept. The particular style is more a matter of taste. If it can face south or southeast all the better. If it can be placed convenient to the orchard it will be an item. But make it warm, be sure it is dry, and allow plenty of room. By building in good season now the fowls will have become well accustomed to it by the time it is needed and there will be no risk to run of the fowls being caught in a cold storm because of delay in building their quarters.

Farm Notes For August.

Finish up the plowing for wheat. Haul out manure on the wheat land. Cut plenty of fodder in good season. Teach colts to eat well before weaning.

Breed the ewes that are to bring early lambs.

Sows may be bred early this month for fall pigs.

Rush the feeding of the stock intended for early market.

Stack the straw so that it will keep in a good condition.

Much of the value of fodder is lost by allowing it to get too ripe before cutting.

Drag and harrow the ground intended for fall wheat until it is in a fine condition.

One advantage is putting up fodder in small stacks is that it will cure out quicker.

If the condition will admit, grass and clover can be sown the latter part of this month.

Better cut off and feed some corn to the stock rather than allow them to run down in condition.

One advantage in setting out strawberry plants this month is that if they grow they will yield a fair crop next season.

Cultivation in the orchard should

cease sufficiently early to give the new growth of wood plenty of time to mature.

In many sections there is a shortage of the fruit crop, so that it will be an item not to allow any of it to go to waste.

Get rid of all stock that cannot be wintered to advantage. No more stock should be wintered than the feed will keep well.

Commence fattening the old ewes and cows that it is intended to market this fall. They will fatten faster on good pasturage.

Celery Refuse.

Truck growers and farmers making a specialty of this crop often wish for a profitable manner in which to utilize the waste, but up to the present nothing has been accomplished. The well known "celery salt" is a preparation of celery seeds and this answers requirements so far as a celery flavor is concerned. We are advised from Washington that the department of agriculture has never investigated the subject of profitable utilization of celery refuse. "It is a question whether any process which involves drying would be satisfactory, as most of the flavor, which is due to a volatile oil, would doubtless be lost," writes an official of the department. "I would suggest in the utilization of the waste product a process of canning waste celery. If the cooking is slight a large part of the volatile oil can be retained in the canned product, which would then be useful in the making of soups. Waste celery leaves are often employed in this way in domestic cooking."

THE OLDEST VOLUNTEER.

A New York State doctor, aged 109, volunteered his services to the President recently, and expressed a desire to enter the army as a surgeon. Even at his advanced years he can read without glasses, and walk 10 to 15 miles a day. The oldest standard medicine is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which has no equal for indigestion, dyspepsia, constipation, fevers and bad blood. It strengthens, purifies and vitalizes. One bottle does much good.

Foedick—What made Spain think she could feed the United States a "terrible, glorious blow"? Keedick—I suppose it was because she had so many terrible, glorious blowers.

I know that my life was saved by Piso's Cure for Consumption.—John A. Miller, Au Sable, Michigan, April 21, 1895.

Try Schilling's Best tea and baking powder.

Y—I see there is danger of our soldiers in Cuba running out of powder. C—Oh, you must have got that wrong! Why, man, they're making powder of everything down there!

Warm Weather

WEAKNESS is quickly overcome by the toning and blood enriching qualities of Hood's Sarsaparilla. This great medicine cures that tired feeling almost as quickly as the sun dispels the morning mist. It also cures pimples, boils, salt rheum, scrofula and all other troubles originating in bad, impure blood.

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Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50-cent bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

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Sold by Druggists, or sent in plain wrapper, by express, prepaid, for \$1.00, or 3 bottles, \$2.50. Circular sent on request.

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if you are dissatisfied with the size of piece or with the quality of the chewing tobacco you are using—

get **BattleAx** 
PLUG

and you'll get your money's worth. The 10-cent piece of **BattleAx** is larger than the 10-cent piece of any other brand of the same high quality, and is the largest piece of really good chewing tobacco that is sold for 10 cents.

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Who desire a location combining every feature conducive to prosperity, sufficiently near to San Francisco to enjoy all the privileges of a site in the metropolis, and yet sufficiently remote to escape the heavy taxation and other burdens incident to the city.

Where a ship canal enables vessels to discharge their cargoes on the various wharves already completed for their accommodation.

Where large ferry boats enter the large ferry slip now in use, and land passengers, freight and whole trains of cars.

Where an independent railroad system gives ample switching privileges to every industry.

Where a private water-works plant, with water mains extending throughout the entire manufacturing district, supplies an abundance of pure artesian water at rates far below city prices.

Where some of the largest industries in the State are today located and in full operation.

Where hundreds of thousands of dollars have already been spent in perfecting the locality for manufacturing purposes.

Where the South San Francisco Land and Improvement Company own **THIRTY-FOUR HUNDRED** acres of land and Seven Miles of Water Front on the San Francisco Bay, and on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Where, in fact, rail, wharf and other privileges are unexcelled for manufacturing purposes by any other locality on the coast.

If you desire such a location come and see what we have in South San Francisco, San Mateo County.

For further information call or address

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO LAND & IMPROVEMENT CO.

202 SANSOME ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

TO HOME-SEEKERS

The South San Francisco Land and Improvement Company, comprising many San Francisco, Chicago and New York capitalists, created in San Mateo county a new town site known as South San Francisco. This town site is situated on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad, and also on the Southern Pacific Bay Shore Railroad, soon to be finished; it is also at the terminus of the San Francisco and San Mateo Electric Railway.

South San Francisco was platted as a town just prior to the great financial panic of 1893 and 1894; during all that period of financial wreck and ruin, when almost every new enterprise and many old-established institutions were actually swept out of existence, she has held her own and is to-day a prosperous community with a population of nearly eight hundred people.

Upwards of \$2,000,000 in cash have been expended in laying the foundation of this new town. Most of the streets have been graded, curbed and sewered, miles of concrete sidewalk laid, trees planted along the main highways, and a water-works plant completed, giving an abundant supply of pure artesian water for every purpose. But the foundation laid in what is known as the manufacturing district of this town site constitutes above all others the most positive guarantee for the future of South San Francisco.

There is no stability nor permanency so absolute respecting real estate values, and the future growth of any community like that which is based upon industries giving employment to men. The facilities created by the founders of South San Francisco have already secured to her several large manufacturing enterprises, and will soon secure many more; this means not only an increase in population, but an enhancement in real estate values.

South San Francisco has passed the experimental stage, and is now an established town. Many of her lot owners who have properly improved their holdings are even to-day realizing from ten to twenty per cent net on their investments. How many communities as new as South San Francisco can make this boast?

An independent community in itself, with its own supporting elements, and at the same time close to the metropolis of California, and in the direction in which San Francisco must necessarily grow, already reached by some of the city's street car service, and certain to be on the line of any new railroad entering San Francisco, South San Francisco presents to-day opportunities for investment among the safest and best on the Pacific Coast.

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