

THE PRAIRIE FARMER.

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THE PRAIRIE FARMER COMPANY.CONDUCTED BY
HENRY D. EMERY.ASSISTED BY
W. W. CORBETT, H. T. THOMAS, AND
RODNEY WELCH.

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Mrs. E. S. Tupper.....	Iowa.

CHICAGO SATURDAY, March 6, 1899.

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Norway Oats.—Mr. Ramsdell, the original disseminator of these Oats, has established a Depot for their sale at 171 Lake St., Chicago, Ill. See advertisement.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

GAS TAR FOR POSTS.—U.—I am about to put up trellis for grape vines. Will dipping the ends of the posts in gas tar be of sufficient advantage to justify the labor and expense? If so, about how much tar will be required for three hundred posts, and what is the best mode of applying it?

Comparatively little good comes from coating unseasoned posts with gas tar; but many think seasoned posts will last twice as long if coated with it. The best way to apply it, that we know of, is to boil the tar in a large kettle and then dip the ends of the posts into it, letting them remain till they are well saturated. Then take them out and roll them in dry sand. Finally, when this coat has hardened, dip them again in the hot tar and take them immediately out. They should be covered with tar several inches above the part that will project from the ground. For small posts a barrel of tar might be sufficient, though that will depend somewhat on the kind of wood; if it absorbs a good deal of tar they would require more. We have never heard of anyone who has treated posts in this manner who did not think it paid.

COMPOSITION OF EGGS.—C. M. G.—Will you give me, through the FARMER, the exact chemical analysis of the hen's egg? I sent to the "Electro-Egg Company," of Chicago, (I saw the advertisement of such a Company in the PRAIRIE FARMER ANNUAL for 1898), for their Circular giving such information, but as yet they have failed to send it.

The composition of eggs, like that of milk, varies in different specimens. The following is Dr. Thompson's analysis: White of the egg—water, 80; albumen, 15.5; mucos, 4.5; ash or saline matter, 0.475. Yolk—water, 41.46; albumen, in a form called vitelline, 15.76; margarine and oleine, 21.304; cholesterol, 0.438 oleic and margaric acids, 1.226; phosphoglyceric acid, 1.2; chloride of ammonium, 0.034; chlorides of sodium and potassium and sulphate of potash, 0.277; phosphates of lime and magnesia, 1.022; animal extracts, 0.4; coloring matter, 0.053; and traces of other substances, as iron and lactic acid.

MANURE FOR CELERY.—T. J. H., St. Louis Co., Mo.—Will you please tell me what kind of manure I had better buy for Cauliflower and Celery? I want to grow quite a large plantation of each; and as I have just bought another man's farm, I find my manure pile small and scattering, and as I am unacquainted with the manures of commerce, I do not know which to use. My soil is clay in one field which I wish to plant; in another, black river bottom land. Strong nitrogenous manures are the best for celery, cauliflower, &c. Good, well digested horse and sheep manure for the heavy, and cow manure for the light soils; work it thoroughly into the ground; ten to fifteen cords per acre. Super phosphate and ground bones, blood manure and guano are good as special fertilizers, but the two must be used carefully, else they will burn the plants. It is useless to attempt their cultivation unless the land is made very rich.

KILLING TREES.—S. A., Pulaski Co.—Can you or any of your subscribers inform me through your columns, what time in the month of June, cutting a small notch in a tree will cause it to die? also when is the best time to cut down a sapling grove to keep the tree from sprouting up again?

If there is any day in June that will accomplish the object first spoken of, it is probably the 31st. In relation to the second inquiry, we would recommend to cut the young trees when they are in full foliage. As this period will differ very greatly among a variety of trees, no set time can be given. In fact, there are some trees that will put out suckers if the trunks are severed at any time.

YELLOW FIFE WHEAT.—J. H., of Nebraska, in answer to query about this wheat, replies: "The wheat is to be found in the neighborhood of Brownsville, Nebraska, where it has grown well, and is a success; also in other parts of the State."

This variety has been widely disseminated through the West, and when kept pure, has been quite successful in yield. Millers sometimes complain of its being too hard to flour well without dampening.

SURPRISE OATS.—M. K. Sawyer, of De Kalb, Ill., says to C. D., Young America, and others, that he has this year raised several acres of the Surprise oats, and that he considers them a profitable variety for any man to raise. He will sell them at \$3.00 per bushel.

CASTOR BEANS AND GOPHERS.—For the information of R. C. T., Lawrence, Kansas, let me state that I have been in the Castor Bean-raising business for twenty-five years, and believe the mole to be second only to the cutworm in destruction. Mr. Mole does not eat the bean, but he runs below and heaves up the plants. Beans will no more keep away moles than they will crows. W. B. CRAWFORD.

BREAKING PLOWS.—S. A., Pulaski, Ind.—Where can I get the best prairie-breaking plow? Is the rod mould board better than the steel?

You can hardly go amiss in the West in getting a two-horse prairie-breaker, as all the principal implement manufacturers make them, and implement dealers sell them. The rod mould board is but little used now to what it was a few years ago; but is manufactured to some extent, we believe, by Deere & Co. of Moline, and others.

WIRE FENCES.—J. E. B., Elkader.—Gentlemen, Will some of your numerous readers, who have some experience in the matter, tell us about wire fences? Can they be made effective against cattle and horses, and if so, how is the cheapest and best fence made; how many wires, distance assunder of posts, etc.?

HONEY LOCUST FOR HEDGE.—J. W. Will Honey Locust make a good hedge? With proper treatment it makes a very good hedge, and will succeed in higher latitudes than the Osage Orange, but where the latter will succeed we should prefer it.

HUNGARIAN GRASS SEED.—A Subscriber, Logan Co.—Is Hungarian grass seed for sale in Chicago; if so, at what price?

Quotations will be found in our market reports when there are any sales made.

BERKSHIRE SWINE.—J. R. W., Olmsted Co., Minn.—You can procure this class of stock of Crowder Brothers, Springfield, or W. R. Duncan, Towanda, Ill.

GROUND CHERRIES.—E. S., De Witt Co.—I wish to raise a fruit called the Tame Ground Cherry; can any one tell me where I can obtain the seed?

SEED DRILL.—G. C. B.—Will you please tell me where I can get Emery's one horse seed drill? We believe P. S. Meserole, 204 Lake street, lately advertised this drill. Most of the implement dealers here have it.

SUFFOLK PIGS.—D. C., Bureau Co., Ill.—Chas. Snod, Joliet, Ill., has Suffolk swine.

FRUIT BOXES AND CRATES.—B.—You will find these advertised in the FARMER, by Hoaglan & Kimball, Chicago, Ill.

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

--LOCATION OF THE FAIR.

An adjourned meeting of the executive committee of the Illinois State Society was held at the Society's rooms in Springfield, Feb. 23rd, to consider proposals for holding the Fairs of 1899 and 1870.

The people and Agricultural Society at Bloomington had made some movement toward inviting the society to that city, but did not put in an appearance at the meeting.

Some efforts had also been made at Springfield to have action taken by the County Supervisors to appropriate funds to prepare a site for the society to hold the fair upon, but nothing had been completed.

Earnest wishes were expressed from the south part of the State that the Society should hold a fair in the first grand judicial division of the State, and the feeling had so wrought on the mind of a member of the General Assembly that he had introduced a bill into the Legislature, requiring the Society to hold its meetings alternately in each judicial division.

It has, we believe, always been the object and aim of the Executive Board to hold their fairs at such points in the State, as they would, apparently, do the most good, being governed, of course, by the invitations of localities, and acceptance of the Society's requirements. The subject of holding a fair in the Southern part of the State, was fully discussed, and the following resolution was passed unanimously by the Board:

Resolved, That the Executive Board recognize fully the justice and propriety and good policy of holding the Fairs of this Society alternately South, Central and North in this State, and that they are ready and anxious to locate the Fair in the Southern or First Grand Division, whenever and wherever the citizens of any accessible place in that division may signify a willingness to make the necessary preparation and fulfill the needful and usual requirements for the same.

On motion, a committee was also appointed to confer with the Committee on Agriculture, in the Assembly, and present the matter in accordance with the above resolution.

Location.
A committee of three from the Macon County Agricultural and Mechanical Society appeared before the Board, and virtually complied with the specifications of the Board for the holding of the fairs of 1899 and 1870.

After a full discussion of the matter, and a meeting of a special committee of the Board, with the committee from Decatur, it was resolved to hold the fairs of 1899 and 1870 on the Macon County fair grounds at Decatur, where two have heretofore been held.

ILLINOIS VERSUS NEW YORK.

Hon. J. R. Miller and Illinois Cheese.

It will be remembered by many that when a bill was under consideration in the present Legislature for the better protection of the butter and cheese interests of the State, that the representative from St. Clair county was reported to have said that "New York furnished good cheese, and that Illinois did not." Whereat the "Dairy, Horticultural and Agricultural Society of Fox River" met, and decided to convince Mr. Miller, if possible, of his error, and passed some resolutions and a resolution, which were published in the PRAIRIE FARMER of Feb. 13th. The resolution was to send the Hon. Mr. Miller a cheese made at the "Hanover Cheese Factory," that he might test for himself. The cheese was, in due time, sent, in care of Senator Fuller, and upon its receipt he sent the following note to Mr. Miller:

ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE—SENATE CHAMBER,
SPRINGFIELD, Feb. 2, 1899.
Hon. James R. Miller, House of Representatives.—DEAR SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a certified copy of a preamble and resolution adopted on the 30th ultimo, by the Dairy, Horticultural and Agricultural Society of Fox River, Illinois. The cheese referred to has arrived, and is now in my possession. I have now the honor respectfully to request that you designate the time and place where you will receive the same.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
ALLEN C. FULLER.

The time fixed was at the meeting of the Agricultural Board at their rooms in Springfield, Feb. 24. The Board took a recess, and the meeting being called to order by the President of the State Agricultural Society, Dr. Kile, the presentation of the Cheese by Senator Fuller to Mr. Miller, took place in the presence of a large number of the legislators and others. Mr. Fuller hoped that the Hon. Mr. Miller would, on trial, be satisfied that Illinois can make as good cheese as any other state, and that if so satisfied, that he would be free to acknowledge the fact and set himself right before the public.

Mr. Miller, in response, said he accepted the cheese, but declined to pass judgment upon the quality until it had been fully tested by the gentlemen and himself, but before testing the cheese, he desired to say a few words in relation to the language, etc., which had been the cause of this presentation. When the bill came up in relation to protecting butter and cheese, and in the discussion of the matter, it was said that the bill was an exact copy of the New York bill, and some gentleman observed that that was no credit. In discussing the question he might have used the language as reported, but he intended to have said, "that he did not see why as good cheese could not be made in Illinois, as in any other section." That was in his mind, and he was at a loss to understand how he could have used the language reported, as he was in favor of fostering home productions, and giving them all necessary encouragement.

The cheese being cut, the Hon. Mr. Miller proceeded to test the same in the presence of the crowd, taking his time for it amid the merriment of the occasion; insisting, the while, that he alone must test it, as it was his "fight."

After due deliberation he expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the quality of Illinois cheese, and pronounced it fully equal to any he had ever tasted. Mr. Miller's explanations were entirely satisfactory, and the crowd separated in the best of spirits.

MOVEMENTS OF BLOODED STOCK.

Robert Milne, of Lockport, Will county, Ill., has sold to Thomas George, Kenosha, Wis., the cow Duchess, by Major 1,823, out of Nelly, by Comet, Jr.; also, the cow Scotia, by Major 1823, out of Bella by Magyar 677, &c.

D. McMillan, proprietor of the "Oakland Herd," Xenia, Ohio, has sold to E. Iles, Springfield, Ill.,—"Mary Washington," by imported Challenger 324; dam, Sarah Gandy, by Wellington 2,366.

"Clementine," by Sir Robert Alexander 3,440; dam, Sallie Bell, by Afton 1,173.

"Escort," by Duke of Madison 6,665; dam, Clementine, &c.

"Frederika," by Gen. Grant 4,825; dam, 4th Duchess of Oakland, by Duke of Thorndale, 2,787.

To John R. Erwin, Princeton, Ind.,—"Airdrie, Duke of Oakland," by 11th Duke of Airdrie 5,533; dam, Highland Lady, by King Alfred 3,053 (14,760).

To Jno. A. Foss, Marion county, Ohio—"Grand Commander," by Gen. Grant 4,825; dam, Lucy, by Young Marquis 3,603.

Dr. E. E. Collins, of Osego county, New York, recently brought to Janesville, Wis., the young Clay Messenger stallion, Frank Hambleton.

He is a cherry bay, fifteen hands two inches high, and of good style and action. He was sired by the well-known trotting stallion, "Victor," whose terms of service last season were \$75. "Victor" was sired by the renowned Cassius M. Clay (the sire of Patches). The dam of "Frank Hambleton" is from Membrino Messenger stock. He may be seen at the stables of the Schuyler House, Janesville. We have no doubt that the service of this horse will be largely sought.

CELERY FROM TEXAS.

Some time during last summer we recollect some of the hucksters that ply between this city and the South, tried to get some of our vegetable men to grow them a large quantity of cabbage and celery plants to take South in the fall. A few days ago we observed an advertisement in the Tribune, of "10,000 celery for sale, from Texas."

Calling at the place designated, a few days after, the celery was all gone, it selling at fifty cents per dozen; stalks sold to be from eighteen inches to two feet in length.

Putting this and that together, we come to the conclusion that it is not improbable our citizens are now enjoying celery raised here, transported to Texas, grown to a full size, and re-shipped to them for their tables. We are only just getting to the equalizing effects of railroads and other means of conveyance.

TRUSTEES FOR THE INDUSTRIAL UNIVERSITY.

The term of the following named gentlemen as Trustees of the Industrial University of Illinois, expired with the year 1898, viz.: Alexander Blackburn, A. M. Brown, Samuel Edwards, David S. Hammond, J. S. Johnson, Isaac W. Mahan, L. B. McMurray, Thos. Quick, Chas. H. Toppin, M. L. Dunlap.

The Governor has nominated and the Senate confirmed the following named gentlemen to fill the vacancies, viz.: Alexander Blackburn, A. M. Brown, Samuel Edwards, Isaac L. Pickering, Isaac W. Mahan, Jas. B. Slade, Paul R. Wright, S. B. McMurray, John S. Johnson, John R. Scott.

*Previously resigned.

OUR PREMIUMS.

We offer the most valuable and most varied list of premiums of any publishers in the west, and at the same time award them on the most liberal terms. We offer \$100 in Gold for the largest number of subscribers, received from one person: \$50 in Gold, for the next largest number. To the largest club from one person, sent to one Post Office, we send the paper for next year free to each member of the club. For full particulars send for our Premium List.

For \$2.75 we send the PRAIRIE FARMER, and the AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGIST.

For \$3.25 we send the PRAIRIE FARMER and the TOLEDO BLADE.

THE BLADE AND THE FARMER.

The Blade, published by Miller, Locke & Co., at Toledo, Ohio, has grown to be one of the most popular Journals in the country. Its circulation, as we learn from the proprietors, already reaches nearly 100,000 copies and is rapidly increasing; its popularity is doubtless largely due to the letters of the "Rev. Petroleum V. Nasby, P. M." which appear therein from week to week, in addition to which the Parson has written a novel for its columns, entitled the "White Slave's Story," the publication of which was recently commenced. We have made arrangements by which we are enabled to send the Blade and the PRAIRIE FARMER at \$3.25 per annum.

Must be Observed.—We are frequently blamed for neglect, when we are in no way responsible. If correspondents will observe and respect the following directions, there will be less complaint and vexation to all.

When writing communications for the FARMER, write only on one side of the paper, and on business at the same time, write on separate pieces of paper, or on different parts of the same sheet, so they may be separated.

Always give the name of the post office and State at the heading of the letter.

In writing for the paper, give real name, (not necessarily for publication) that we may know who the correspondent is.

In ordering the paper changed from one post office to another, give the one from which it is to be changed, as well as the new one.

In remitting money, it is better to procure a Post Office money order, or a Draft when it can be done; when this cannot be done, enclose, and register the letter, when the remittance may be at our risk.