

# Texas Stock and Farm Journal.

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## Texas Stock and Farm Journal

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the largest guaranteed circulation of any

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Communications addressed to either of our three offices

will receive prompt attention. A number of our

letters are not, however, as would be the case with

other publications, as well as those intended for publication,

are addressed to our Dallas office.

James McKim, A. J. Parks, Dr. Lyman L. Whitaker,

and V. H. Blocker are traveling in the interest of Texas

Stock and Farm Journal, and are solicited to contribute

to the journal in any way possible. Their names are

published in the journal as a mark of appreciation.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

Notice is hereby given that the Texas

Stock and Farm Journal, and are solicited to contribute

to the journal in any way possible. Their names are

published in the journal as a mark of appreciation.

COMING EVENTS.

Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, Fort Worth,

Texas Live Stock Association, San Antonio, Texas,

January 10, 1900.

National Live Stock Association, Fort Worth, Texas,

January 10, 1900.

Range Stock Show, Fort Worth, Texas, January 17,

1900.

Fort Worth Live Stock Association, Fort Worth, Texas,

March 30, 1900.

Fort Worth and Fort Stock Association, Fort

Worth, Texas, January 10, 1900.

South Texas Fruit, Vegetable and Melon Growers' Association, Bowie, Texas, Feb. 6th.

TO JOURNAL PATRONS.

Having disposed of my interest in

Texas Stock and Farm Journal, my

connection with the paper ceases with

this issue.

I desire to thank the patrons of the

paper for the liberal support they have

given it in the past and to ask a con-

tinuation of same in the future. Very

truly, GEORGE B. LOVING.

January 10, 1900.

It is probable that many persons in

Texas are not aware that the state has

an agricultural department, or rather

a fractional department. There is in

Texas a State Commissioner of Agriculture,

Insurance, Statistics and History

who receives the princely salary of

\$2000. The state further squanders

\$100 each year for the services of an

agricultural clerk.

All the reports from the various

interest will have a peculiar and instructive  
value from the fact that it will be an  
exhibition on a large scale of the most  
highly developed merchantable prod-  
ucts of the range industry. It will be  
seen that a marvelous advance has  
been made in the products of this huge  
industry and will have a tendency to  
make the improvement more general  
and to develop still higher standards.  
To thousands this exhibition will be  
far from being the least interesting  
feature of the convention week. The  
journal would here suggest that it would  
be well for those having the manage-  
ment of the exhibition to place over or  
near the gate of each pen the name of  
the exhibitor and the name and loca-  
tion of the ranch in which the animals  
therein were raised. This information  
would be of interest to every visitor.

Elsewhere in the Journal to-day it  
will be seen that the weather bureau  
at Washington, at the request of offi-  
cers of the National Live Stock associa-  
tion, has adopted regulations under  
which emergency or special warnings

of the approach of weather conditions  
threatening damage to live stock in-  
terests will be sent out to so many  
points in the range country as to give  
stockmen everywhere in those sections  
time to make some preparation for the  
care of their stock. The warnings will  
be sent to 102 places in Colorado and  
to a proportionate number in Wyoming,  
Montana, Idaho, Utah, North and  
South Dakota, Kansas and Texas.

Under former regulations these warn-  
ings have been sent to only a few  
points in each state, but the magni-  
tude of the live stock interests in the  
states named, and the disastrous effects  
of winter storms when no provision  
has been made to ward off their dan-  
gers has led the bureau to change its  
regulations so as to give the emergency  
notices the widest possible distribu-  
tion where they can be made so val-  
uable.

In England's Australian possessions  
the losses resulting from drought have  
made heavy inroads upon the live stock  
industries, and the measure of damage  
can't yet be estimated, as not enough  
rain has yet fallen to relieve the  
country. Queensland and New South  
Wales have suffered the most heavily  
and millions of sheep have already  
died. In some portions of the country  
there has been rainfall, but not enough  
to bring relief, and large areas of the  
ranges are still without rain. Losses  
were heavy in Australia last year. The  
cause of the drought has made the  
situation a grave one. The continuance  
of the unfortunate conditions has al-  
ready had its effect in shortened sup-  
plies of wool, mutton and beef from  
that country, and the results in Euro-  
pean markets which drew upon Aus-  
tralia for these supplies must be in-  
tensified, and increased demands upon  
the flocks and herds of this country  
will have to be made. In a large por-  
tion of India also weather conditions  
have been unfavorable to agriculture.  
As the districts affected are densely  
populated no surplus is raised in ordi-  
nary years and a crop failure means  
famine. Reports received from India  
state that three million people in these  
famine-stricken districts will have to  
be fed by the British government.

A bill has been introduced in con-  
gress by representative Stephens of  
Texas providing for lease of govern-  
ment lands suitable for grazing pur-  
poses situated in the arid states and  
territories. In its general outlines it  
is similar to the Texas lease law. It  
fixes the lease price at 3 cents an acre  
for watered and 2 cents an acre for  
unwatered land. The lessee of a watered  
section must lease three unwatered  
sections if found contiguous. Only two  
sections of watered and six sections of  
unwatered land can be leased to one  
person. Leases of watered lands have  
a term of five years and of unwatered  
land a term of ten years. The lessee  
has for ninety days after the expiration  
of his lease a prior right of leasing  
again. The proceeds of the leases will  
be used by congress for irrigation pur-  
poses in the states and territories  
where they are collected. It will be  
seen that it is the intention of the bill  
to encourage a better system of stock-  
raising by enabling the stockman to  
appropriate to his own benefit all the  
improvements he may put on the land,  
and to make it a matter of self-interest  
with the occupants of the range not to  
overstock it and continue the destruc-  
tion of its grazing value, and, at the  
same time, to give the small stockman  
opportunity to appropriate and main-  
tain sufficient pasturage for their busi-  
ness. The policies upon which Mr.  
Stephens' bill is based will be very  
fully discussed in the National Live  
Stock convention next week, and the  
action of that body will have much to  
do with the action of congress upon  
Mr. Stephens' bill or some similar  
measure.

TEXAS CATTLE FEEDING.

The Journal's report of Texas cattle

feeding up to the close of the year 1899

was obtained almost entirely from re-  
ports received direct from the cotton

seed oil mills throughout the state, in-

cluding a small number of mills in the  
Territory and one in Arkansas, the  
cattle at these being Texas cattle.

Seventy-three mills reported as hav-  
ing on feed and contracted for feed-  
ing a total of 99,620 head. From other  
sources the Journal has trustworthy  
reports of 14,575 head in feed-lots in  
the state, most of them at oil mills  
that had failed to reply to the Journal's  
inquiries, making to date a total of  
114,195 reported. The Journal had a  
number of reports of small lots being  
fed at other places than the oil mills,  
the fattening ration being principally  
corn. It has not been possible to as-  
ertain to what extent this is being  
done, but there is reason to believe  
that it is to become an important fea-  
ture of Texas cattle feeding, though not  
yet extensive enough to affect materi-  
ally the report made by the Journal. It  
is an industry that will probably grow  
with the development of the  
swine industry in Texas.

The Journal's reports directly from  
seventy-three mills and indirectly from  
several others leaves probably thirty  
or forty mills of which no statement  
has been made. It is known that on  
account of the failure of the cotton  
crop and the high price of seed a num-  
ber of the mills are not oper-  
ating this year and a num-  
ber of others would make no  
feeding contracts. For this reason  
the Journal believes that the total  
above given includes about all the  
Texas feeding being done this season.

TERRITORY GRAZING LEASES.

The apprehension felt by many that  
under the provisions of the Curtis act  
all leases in the Indian Territory would  
terminate January 1, 1900, seems to  
have not been founded upon a correct  
construction of that act. The section  
upon which that belief was based is as  
follows:

"Section 23. That all leases of agricul-  
tural or grazing land belonging to any  
tribe, made after the first day of  
January, 1893, by the tribe or any mem-  
ber thereof, shall be absolutely void;  
and all such grazing leases made prior  
to said date shall terminate on January  
1, 1900; but this shall not prevent in-  
dividuals from leasing their allotments  
when made to them as provided in  
this act, nor from occupying or renting  
their proportionate share of the  
tribal lands until the allotments herein  
provided are made."

The last clause of this section per-  
mits the Indians to make leases prior  
to the allotments are completed. As this  
work cannot be completed for a long  
time the Indians would be deprived of  
revenue from the grazing lands unless  
leases were valid until final allotment,  
and this was doubtless the reason why  
section 23 made the proviso expressed  
in its final clause. In the Curtis Na-  
tional leasing claimants were permit-  
ted to lay claim to unselected lands in  
areas of 160 acres to each, claiming  
them in advance of allotments, and  
most of the Creeks have made selec-  
tions and have leased the lands selected  
to cattlemen. These leases will ter-  
minate only as provided for in the  
instruments by which they are granted.  
The clause in section 23 provid-  
ing that it "shall not prevent individ-  
uals from leasing their allotments  
when made to them as provided in this  
act, nor from occupying or renting  
their proportionate share of tribal  
lands until the allotments herein pro-  
vided for are made" seems to suffi-  
ciently validate such leases. The same  
authority to lease belongs to all the  
"individuals" in all the Five Nations  
as well as to the Creeks. Each has the  
right to lease "his proportionate share  
of the tribal lands" until the allot-  
ments are made.

Relative to this matter Judge Van  
Devanter, attorney-general for the De-  
partment of the Interior, said Dec 21st,  
in the Washington correspondent of  
the St. Louis Republic:

"The department is taking no action  
in the matter of terminating leases in  
the Indian Territory, either of grazing  
or agricultural lands. The law of 1893  
provided for placing in control of the  
individual allottee to the leasing of his  
proportionate share, and no more.  
For some months past only such leases  
have been valid. There is no change  
in the conditions. Leases made with  
individuals will run for the terms  
named in them. This applies to agri-  
cultural as well as grazing lands. In  
so far as there is to be an exodus to-  
morrow, it is only of those who have  
not secured a renewal of leases expir-  
ing to-morrow. The department is  
informed that many renewals have  
been made and has no knowledge of a  
general exodus."

PROHIBITIVE TAXATION OF OLEO-

MARGARINE.

A bill has been introduced in con-  
gress providing for an amendment of  
"An act defining butter, also imposing  
a tax upon and regulating the man-  
ufacture, sale, importation and export-  
ation of oleomargarine." The object of  
the bill is to protect the dairy interests  
against the competition of oleomargarine  
by imposing such a tax upon it as  
to practically prohibit its manufac-  
ture.

The Journal is ever willing to give

to the dairy interest all legitimate en-

couragement and protection, and be-  
lieves that interest should be protect-  
ed against all fraudulent limitations.  
No article of food should be permitted  
to go on the market with such mark  
or label as would lead buyers to suppose  
it to be other than it actually is. Oleo-  
margarine when offered for sale should  
be offered as oleomargarine, not as  
butter. There are thousands who will  
buy it, knowing that it is, because  
they cannot afford to pay the price of  
the best butter and prefer oleomargarine  
to inferior butter or "process" but-  
ter. There is no reason to doubt that  
it is a wholesome food, which is more  
than can be said of many forms of but-  
ter offered in the market, fraudulent-  
ly colored and rendered unwholesome  
by chemical preservatives. All coun-  
terfeits of pure food are criminal, and  
all should come under the ban of the  
law.

The manufacture of oleomargarine is  
a legitimate industry when the article  
is made to be sold without misrepresen-  
tation as to its composition. It has  
been built up for itself a large market  
simply because it is acceptable to many  
as a cheap, wholesome and palatable food.  
To tax it so heavily as to destroy its  
manufacture in order to relieve the  
dairy interests of its competition is  
class legislation, legislation in favor  
of one industry at the expense of prod-  
ucers and consumers of the product of  
another industry and as such it seems  
to the Journal an injustice that cannot  
be defended upon any fair principles  
of trade.

The manufacture of oleomargarine  
has grown to such dimensions as to  
have become an important industry,  
one in which a large amount of capital  
has been invested and which employs  
much labor. It is said that the portion  
of the fat used in making oleomargarine  
is, in an ordinary beef steer,  
worth from \$2 to \$4 more than it was  
before oleomargarine made its ap-  
pearance, and if its manufacture should  
be prohibited by the tax sought to be  
imposed upon it this portion of the  
fat would be only used in making tal-  
low, reducing the value of each average  
animal \$3 to \$4. This is a loss that  
would fall upon the producers of beef  
cattle upon the farms as well as upon  
the range.

The Journal wants to see the dairy  
industry developed and encouraged. It  
believes it should be protected against  
all counterfeits of its pure products,  
and that it and the public would be  
benefited by a pure food law which  
would effectually prohibit the use of  
counterfeits, including coloring mat-  
ter, preservatives, etc. But those who  
are asking that a legitimate industry  
such as the one here considered should  
be wiped out in order that the dairy  
interests may not have to compete  
with it are asking too much. The beef  
growers of the country have in this  
matter a very considerable interest,  
and on the farms alone, leaving the  
ranges out of account, beef production  
is certainly a large enough industry to  
merit a consideration of whatever may  
affect its prosperity.

THE DAY OF ENGLAND'S TRIAL.

The strangest fact connected with  
the war in South Africa is that the  
British government should have com-  
menced it with so recklessly aggressive  
a campaign while having such inade-  
quate knowledge of the strength and  
thoroughly prepared condition of the  
enemy. For twenty years the world  
has known what splendid fighting  
material the Transvaal could put in  
the field. British soldiers, has, however,  
such a record of marvelous achieve-  
ment in every quarter of the world  
that it is ever the fatal tendency in  
England to underestimate the foe.  
The tendency has been aggravated by  
the fact that since the Napoleonic wars  
the British soldier has rarely met a  
foeman worthy of his steel. Yet Eng-  
land should not have underestimated  
the Boer.

At the opening of the campaign it  
was generally believed that the Trans-  
vaal and the Orange Free State could  
put in the field some 45,000 men to  
defend three lines of frontier, and that  
they were without preparation for war  
either as to military training, arms,  
especially artillery, or military sup-  
plies. That the rest of the world  
should have had such inadequate knowl-  
edge of the enemy is not strange. Eng-  
land's leaders, however, both in the  
council and in the field should have  
known the truth. With fatal blindness  
three columns of the British army have  
been led against an enemy outnumbering  
them at every point of attack, supplied  
abundantly with artillery of longer  
range than their own and hand-  
ed with the scientific skill of experts,  
offered with men thoroughly trained  
in the arts of modern war, and fighting  
almost unseen from positions so selected  
and strengthened as to defy the as-  
saults of even the desperate valor of  
the British. The result was inevitable.  
In almost every engagement the British  
have suffered disastrous defeat.

At the cost of probably more than  
7000 of her finest soldiers, and the  
greater cost of prestige, for the loss of  
that means an encouragement to the  
enemy that must make the war a larger  
and longer one, England has at last be-

come aroused to the magnitude of the  
struggle upon which she has entered.  
It is now believed that the enemy num-  
bers some 90,000 men, and large bodies  
of recruits from Cape Colony will add  
accession to the present strength of the  
Dutch. There is strong evidence that  
President Kruger has been preparing for  
a dozen years to make the South  
African Republic paramount in that  
part of the continent. He is abundantly  
supplied with all the munitions of  
war, and in all the preparation he  
seems to have had the instruction and  
assistance of skilled officers from differ-  
ent states of Europe. The continent of  
Europe seems called in bitter hostility  
to Great Britain. England knows she  
is fighting for her life, that defeat  
may mean unmeasured disaster in In-  
dia and loss in all parts of the world.  
Knowing this the people of England  
are aroused and united as they have  
not been since the Crimean war, and  
they are organizing for victory, but  
victory that must come after a struggle  
as desperate as has ever reddened the  
pages of history.

Just now the armies in the fields stand  
watching each other. The British will  
hardly make an aggressive move until  
Generals Roberts and Kitchener are in  
the field with force sufficient for their  
work. Unless the Boers attack before  
reinforcements arrive and organize  
new the British campaign there will  
hardly be any important fighting until  
February. The Boers may be  
strong enough to destroy the three be-  
leaguered garrisons before help can  
reach them.

CATTLE.

Winter the cows well or you cannot  
have a good crop of calves.

With an ordinary average winter  
temperature the ranges would have  
been seriously damaged by the fre-  
quent rains of the present season, but  
there has been no very cold weather  
and there have been many days warm  
enough to encourage growth of veg-  
etation and everywhere there is abun-  
dant moisture in the ground. All the  
reports the Journal has received in-  
dicate that on all the Texas ranges  
cattle are doing remarkably well. Gen-  
erally there has been a good growth of  
weeds and in certain sections the grass  
is growing well. The cattlemen seem  
to have no apprehension of any winter  
losses, and many of the most prudent  
of them think there will be no need of  
feeding at any time throughout the  
winter. It would be much safer, how-  
ever, to have the feed put on hand for  
it is needed it will probably be needed  
very badly and at once. On some of  
the ranches provision is made to feed  
whenever conditions require it. The  
Journal believes that the well managed  
feed the cows and young stock all  
along until grass is done in the spring.  
Wherever this can be done at a reason-  
able cost it will be found a profitable  
investment.

SOME CATTLE STATISTICS.

During the year 1899 there were re-  
ceived at the Union Stock Yards of  
Chicago 2,514,446 head of cattle and  
126,676 calves, against 2,480,897 cattle  
and 137,723 calves during the previous  
year. The receipts of cattle exceeded  
those of last year about 34,000 head,  
but were smaller than those of the  
years 1888 to 1897 inclusive. The large-  
est receipts were those of the year 1892,  
3,571,896 head.

The total shipments from Chicago  
during the year 1899 were 811,874 head  
of cattle and 18,187 calves, against  
865,642 cattle and 27,844 calves the pre-  
vious year. The shipments last year  
were smaller than those of any previous  
year since 1887.

For city use and packing Chicago  
took in 1899, 1,762,572 head of cattle  
and 118,489 calves, against 1,757,964  
head of cattle and 88,269 calves dur-  
ing the previous year. The receipts of  
1899 exceeded those of any previous  
year, those of 1897 more closely  
approaching in number, being 1,817,526  
head of cattle and 104,436 calves.

The shipments from Kansas City  
during the year 1899 were 1,911,356  
cattle and 105,648 calves, against  
1,758,896 cattle and 88,521 calves in 1898.  
As in receipts, the shipments were  
larger than those of any previous year,  
the largest former shipments having  
been those of 1897, 1,817,828 cattle and  
104,355 calves.

The approximate average value of  
cattle handled at Kansas City is esti-  
mated by Drovers' Telegram at \$46 in  
1899, \$44 in 1898, \$42 in 1897 and \$41  
in 1896. For the same years the aver-  
age value of calves is approximately  
estimated by the same authority at \$12,  
\$11.50, \$10 and \$10.50.

For some time American trotting  
horses have been going to Russia for  
breeding purposes and their superior-  
ity in speed is so unquestioned that  
pure American-bred horses are barred  
in most of the races in that country,  
though competition remains open for  
Russian-bred horses of American an-  
cestry. In nearly all the recent racing  
the winners have been made by the  
horses of the latter class. The best of  
the native Russian breeds are being  
crossed with the American trotting  
blood, and the result is considerable  
improvement in speed and grace of  
movement, while the Russian gives to  
the native American blood are being  
excluded from the Russian imperial  
stables but the strong demand for them  
at many other great breeding estab-  
lishments is evidence of the great popu-  
larity of the American product.

Cattlemen have certainly no reason  
to complain of conditions in the  
year 1899. In a few localities condi-  
tions were for a time unfavorable,  
but where drought had made the range  
owners for a while apprehensive the  
rain came in time to remove their  
fears, and came in such generous abun-  
dance that the soil has now a more  
plentiful supply of moisture than it has  
had for many years and there is as-  
surance of a more beautiful pasture  
than the cattle have enjoyed for a long  
time. Prices have advanced. The im-  
provement of the herds has become  
less costly, thanks to preventive inocu-  
lation, than in former times, and the  
foreign and domestic demand for  
American beef has never before been  
so large, and because of the vastly in-  
creasing sum now paid out in all the  
industries of the country, it is a de-  
mand certain to continue increasing  
for a time indefinitely long. The re-  
quirements of the markets have con-  
tinued to draw so heavily upon the  
sources of supply that the decrease in  
the number of cattle in the country is  
still going on, while the market abroad  
is enlarging and population at home is  
increasing, and continually becoming  
better able to buy. Even were the de-  
mand not so heavy it would take sev-  
eral years to fill up the depleted  
ranges. The exigency of the enormous  
existing demand seems to continue the  
restriction of all the supply sources and  
the shortage is certain to intensify its  
influences on the markets of 1900 and  
1901, and it is not at all probable that  
there will be conditions so favorable as  
the ones now existing. The cattlemen  
are engaged in the cattle industry  
safely managing their affairs well. They  
are stocking up their ranges with the  
best bulls that money can buy.  
They are continually providing large-  
er and better supplies of water. They  
are guarding their ranges from over-  
stocking. They are trying to preserve  
their pasturage instead of heedlessly  
wearing it out. They are providing  
to feed when necessary throughout the  
winter. They are equipping their  
ranches so as to economize and make  
the most of all native resources, and  
they will learn, when meeting with  
devised for the prompt distribution  
of statistical information, to feed  
requires, instead of pouring in heavy  
over-supply one week and leaving the  
yards empty the next. There is much  
improvement yet, possible, but the  
stockmen of Texas will not be behind  
any of the economic advances in their  
industry, nor in the improvement of  
their herds, and satisfactory as they  
have been the conditions of 1899, there  
are many reasons for hoping that those  
of 1900 will be still more favorable, and  
that the cattle industry for some years  
will enjoy a solid and gratifying pros-  
perity.

For some time American trotting  
horses have been going to Russia for  
breeding purposes and their superior-  
ity in speed is so unquestioned that  
pure American-bred horses are barred  
in most of the races in that country,  
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cestry. In nearly all the recent racing  
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excluded from the Russian imperial  
stables but the strong demand for them  
at many other great breeding estab-  
lishments is evidence of the great popu-  
larity of the American product.

SILAGE FOR HORSES.

Farmers Bulletin No. 103, United  
States Department of Agriculture,  
trotting silage, has the following to  
say: When silage was first introduced  
cases of sickness in horses attributed  
to its use were frequently reported, and  
the opinion that silage was not suited  
to horses came to be quite widely en-  
tertained. Evidence has accumulated,  
however, that a good silage used with  
proper care is a safe and valuable food  
for horses.

In experiments at the Virginia sta-  
tion with eight work animals (six  
mares and two horses), four of the  
silage was fed with corn and four  
were fed corn silage in addition,  
the silage replacing a part of the corn.  
During a preliminary period the ani-  
mals were fed the silage they would  
eat. The quantity consumed varied  
from 22½ to 17½ pounds per week—  
less than is readily devoured by cat-  
tle. The quantity of silage consumed  
of the same quality throughout the  
experiment and gained in weight,  
although constantly at work except in  
stormy weather.

As a whole it would appear that  
silage would make a good roughage  
for horses when used in connection  
with hay or stover and grain, but that  
silage fed not realizing that all silage  
is not of the same quality and that this  
is as important as when changing from  
old to new corn or from hay to grass.  
For some time the silage has been  
found to be of the utmost importance  
to feed a very small quantity at first  
and increase gradually as the animal's  
appetite and condition of bowels may  
warrant.

PREPARE THE HORSE FOR MAR-

SH.

THE FARM.

Get the boys in the habit of reading agricultural literature during the winter.

If gates and fences need repairing, try to get the work done and out of the way before the spring work comes on.

Try to do your corn planting so that no replanting will be necessary. There will sometimes be a bad stand because of conditions the farmer cannot control, but don't let the failure to harvest all neglect to preparing the land, selecting good seed or planting right.

Texas farmers have an unprecedentedly large wheat acreage sown. Doubtless expected more benefit from its pasturage than they have so far enjoyed, the frequent rains having kept the ground too wet, much of the time to make it judicious to turn stock in on it. If any have done so they will probably regret it. There is danger of injuring the crop, also, by too close grazing. This should be watched closely as the field may be materially reduced by grazing too long or by grazing so heavily as to trample out some of the crop.

The farmers of Texas are giving more thought to stock raising, dairying and poultry breeding than ever before, and the time is not so very far distant when nearly every farmer who owns the land he cultivates will regard it as of considerable importance to these branches of farm industry. Starting right in these things goes far to determine the measure of success, and starting right means starting at the best time. It is not to get a pure bred lot of females for a foundation stock, nor is that of so very great importance, but it is of vital importance that the males be pure bred. Provide for these every year above and beyond all the needed shelter. Finish them thoroughly on the farm before marketing and apply all the manure to the land. Use the best feed, and all the needed shelter. Finish them thoroughly on the farm before marketing and apply all the manure to the land. Use the best feed, and all the needed shelter. Finish them thoroughly on the farm before marketing and apply all the manure to the land. Use the best feed, and all the needed shelter.

Probably most of the faults and mistakes of the farmer are attributable to the isolation in which he lives. In life in the towns and cities, at manufacturing and in mines, in all occupations save farming and stock raising, the man is often, if not always in contact with his fellow man, continually rubbing against other thoughts and methods than his own, and continually, though perhaps insensibly, absorbing some new idea or learning some new truth or method. This begets a certain readiness of thought, certain tendencies to prompt utilization of whatever may advance his interest in which the farmer too often is lacking. The farmer is the more thoughtful man and the more conservative, but there is, with him, a certain danger of being too indolent, too conservative, too slow in reading he can learn much, and generally what he reads he digests and assimilates so that it becomes a part of his intellectual organization. This is why so many farmers have not gone deeper and truer insight into political questions than do business men and working men in the towns. But the farmer who does not seek intercourse with his fellow man and learn from his thoughts and experiences, and who does not read, is constantly losing round intellectually as compared with men in the towns, who in the daily meetings and relations have their minds kept awake and active. This the farmer cannot do and succeed. He must meet in the world's markets the world's competition, and the most expert him with the modern learning, or he must lose ground. Let him learn all he can from papers and books, and more practically important, let him learn all he can from his farmer neighbor. There is probably not one among them that cannot teach the others some useful fact or principle. They should meet each other often and exchange opinions and experiences. This will lead to better study and a better and more definite understanding of the knowledge that will help to advance his individual interests as well as those of his community.

THE BEST FARM MANURES. Manure from horses I regard a worth twice as much as that from cows and hogs. The manure of a horse of out strawland will become fully saturated with their urine before throwing out. This makes the best of all manures for all purposes but this should not be rotted in with any other manure. Manures of less value, such as cow and hog manure, wood ashes, decayed vegetables, shavings, leaves of trees, in fact any rubbish that will rot can be mixed with the horse manure, the whole being forked over several times to get well mixed. It is generally best to spread manure in the fall and plow in. Coarser manure can then be used well in the spring. Where manure is to be used as a top-dressing for grass, clover and strawberry beds it is also best to spread on in the fall, as it affords protection to the roots of the plants.

Now, this matter of the value of manures, when and how to apply, is a matter that the farmer must study out largely for himself, being guided by soils and the crops desired above any rule will hold good for all conditions or crops. But in nearly all cases the manure should be pretty well rotted and mixed in the soil before seeding. Stuff soils with a clay subsoil will retain manure much longer than any other soils. Sawdust, although highly recommended by some, has little value as a manure. Cool ashes also have but little value, though if mixed equally with wood ashes will make a splendid top-dressing for currant and gooseberry lands, especially if the land is poor.

With many advantages possessed by the western farmers for improving their keeping up their lands to the highest state of cultivation, there is no excuse for poor or thin lands nor any reason why we should not grow good crops for generations to come. But the time has come when we must begin to look after these matters, for it is much cheaper to improve good land than build up a poor worn-out soil. There is no soil, no matter how rich, that will stand a repeated cultivation without becoming exhausted. We cannot take from the soil all the time and give nothing back.

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ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

THE GARDEN. (Wm. Lomas, Dallas.)

In the estimation of some it is a little too late, and of others a little too early, to plant onions. If you have not as yet planted any, and would like to have a home-grown onion for your table very early, and also a reasonable crop matured for domestic use or market, just "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" the following: I suppose you have a garden. Onions are very accommodating, but they like good, strong land; now haul onto the land you are going to plant, good rich, well-rotted manure at the rate of fifty double-horse wagon loads to the acre. I should like to say much more, but don't want to frighten you. Spread evenly, mind that, and plow in with a good turning plow, and don't be afraid of plowing deep. The onion roots will know how to get the benefit. Level down your ground and if your land is uneven, make shallow beds three feet wide, leaving narrow paths. Divide your beds into three equal rows one foot apart and unless your ground packs hard, tread along these rows in straight lines; plant onion sets—white, red or yellow—five sets to the foot, then by pulling out every second one for green onions. The crop is left at the best distance apart for maturing. Do not plant too deep, and firm the soil well round the sets. Spread some short, strawy manure or leaves on the ground between the rows, so as to protect during a severe freeze. If you don't have severe freezing it is not needed. Instead of whitening the goods box at the store Saturday afternoon, do some soil cultivation with the hoe, but don't hoe the soil to the onions. When hard freezing is over rake the covering off the rows and into the spaces between them for mulching, and don't cover the onions too deep. When the onions are half grown, just before rain, dust the ground along the onion rows with coal dust, and cover with a layer of about four or five hundred pounds to the acre. Don't forget the Saturday hoe and save the box and knife and use for some other purpose. Follow these directions faithfully and if you don't have onions, blame the clerk of the weather or me.

Mustard and cress, in a green state, make a refreshing salad for early spring, and very healthful; better than patent medicine. Make a bed of rich light soil and sow white mustard and curled cress seed in alternate rows. This can be cut and used when very young, and is the old fashioned "cut and come again." And should be sown at once, and from time to time repeated sowings should be made during spring and early summer. Cover lightly during severe freezing, as by so doing you can have these for salad purposes all winter, and of course, these can be cooked for greens, as is usually done.

Radishes are always in season, and if you, kind reader, will only be at the trouble to plant them lightly with some clean, short chaffy straw, hay or any other thing that will protect them during severe freezing, you can have them all winter, as they are the sweetest and most crisp when grown in a cool temperature. During winter they are no doubt best grown in a mild hot bed, as then you can produce the spring radishes, and most of the air they have during the winter, and the earliest forcing in spring, summer and fall. I would recommend the following for this season, and early spring, New Rapid Forcing, Scarlet Globe, New White tipped, Early Scarlet turnip, to be followed by the summer kinds. Radishes should be grown in good light, rich soil, and the quicker they grow the better.

And why not have a nice large bed of early turnips, the same rule holds good in their case as in other hardy vegetables grown during winter, the young plants will need a little protection during severe freezing; but says one to me, "This is too much fag." Well, then do without these fresh, healthful, winter vegetables, and the change opinions are experienced. This will lead to better study and a better and more definite understanding of the knowledge that will help to advance his individual interests as well as those of his community.

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FARM AND GARDEN NEWS.

Rabbits are reported to be doing much injury to young fruit trees in Grayson county and across the river in Indian Territory.

Corpus Christi Caller: The first certain harvest of the season, raised on the Kleber farm near this city, were shipped this week to Santa Gertrudes ranch.

Alvin Commoner: The cold spell of this week will give the strawberry crop a setback that will be highly appreciated by growers. The crop was coming too early for best results.

Merkel Mail: The farmers look for a splendid small grain crop next year. Nearly every one has a few acres of wheat planted, and they are almost certain of a big yield after such fine winter rains. Wheat looks fine at this time.

Braham Banner: Cotton receipts for the week have been 1137 bales, making total receipts for the season 37,285 bales, with stock on hand of 2192 bales. Total wagon receipts for the season last year were 42,000 bales. Cotton men to do well this season will reach that record this season.

A truck growers' organization was formed at Millican, Texas, Saturday. The object of the association is to raise and ship early vegetables to Northern markets. This was done to some extent by the farmers about Millican last year and was quite profitable.

Crosby County News: The recent weather has been all right for orchards and shrubbery. The deeply wet soil and the mild, cold weather coming on so gradually has hardened the fruit-bearing twigs and buds and made a good fruit crop this year almost a certainty.

Foard County News: The new year finds us enjoying seasons propitious for an abundant crop of fruit. The ground is full of moisture. Stock interests are in excellent shape. Wheat pastures are green and the wheat is taking a firm hold in the bottom lands, and laying the best soil in the hundreds of acres that is sown. Farmers are busy hustling around getting ready for spring crops.

Matagorda Tribune: We recently republished, from the Gonzales Inquirer, a short article telling how a Gonzales man had raised 300 barrels of Tobacco peppers from four acres and sold them to a Pittsburg pickle factory at \$15 per barrel. Now comes the Angleton Times and says these Tobacco peppers grow wild in Brazoria county. In that case it is a safe proposition that their culture would be highly successful in Matagorda county.

Beeville Pica-yune: J. K. Robertson, manager of the Beeville irrigated garden, located just west of town, who has been shipping quantities of cabbage and cauliflower since the middle of last month to the interior markets, says he is now receiving many more orders than he can fill, and that the price is very satisfactory. Altogether, the outlook for truck growers in this section is very bright and hundreds of dollars in payment for cabbage and other vegetables shipped from here.

THE ORCHARD.

The very first consideration for the orchard is the location; if you have to plant in a low place, put the drains along the center of space between the rows of trees, using small stones, or flat ones reared edgewise and covered, or if the sides of drain are hard reared against the side, at such an angle as to leave opening for water to flow; or you can use lumber, two 1x3 inches and one 1x4 inches nailed together three angled, and the joints open enough to let water in, or in the absence of any of these, poles or brush can be used, anything that will let the water run; before filling, lay some straw, stubble, old hay, or anything that will keep the loose soil from getting into the bottom of drain, three feet will probably be deep enough; and put your drains up and down instead of across the fall of your land. While certain kinds of soils are appreciated, the location and soils most suited to them they are yet so accommodating that they will as far as possible try to adapt themselves to even unsuitable locations and soils, still if you would have them successful we had better study their natures and learn what they like and what they dislike, and then, in locating our orchard, select what is most suitable both in location and soils, and if we have not these, as far as possible, even at some expense, make such.

HOW TO PLANT. The option is held by some that the best way is to bore a hole with a post auger, stub off the roots, stick your tree down, and ram in the soil. My plan so far has been to dig a good, deep hole, laying the best soil in one place and the poorest in another. When planting I lay a thickness of good soil on the bottom, slightly rounded, then having neatly trimmed the roots, spread them naturally, and fill in best soil first, firming as I do so; I reason that the young roots, that are to grow, need the best organized food and when I dig the trees I limit the roots around the roots, I limit the nature; never put green manure to the roots, and if any manure is used let it be well rotted and thoroughly mixed with the soil; but I would rather have the soil parched before hand.

WHAT TO PLANT. In a country so varied as is Texas and the South it is not possible in a brief newspaper article to give suitable lists of plants, and the difficulty of recommending intending planters to send to Messrs. Ramsey of Austin, Texas, president of the Texas State Horticultural Society, or Dr. A. M. Reagin, State Horticulturist, for a catalogue list of fruits best suited to the different localities of Texas and Louisiana, and please enclose 10c to these gentlemen to pay for said list, as it is the duty of a nurseryman's advertisement, but a list got out by and at the expense of the Horticultural Society.

WHEN TO PLANT. Now, if your ground is ready, if not, get it ready as soon as you can, by thorough cultivation and enriching, and then plant, the nurserymen's catalogues will generally give you the distance. After-cultivation and care-taking will be for further consideration.

IRISH POTATO GROWING IN TEXAS. During the last five years experiments have been carried on with the Irish potato by the Horticultural Department of the Texas Experiment Station. A second report on this subject has just been published as bulletin No. 54. In it the following lines of work are reported upon: Tests of varieties, Northern and Southern grown seeds, different sized pieces for planting, tests of home-made and commercial fertilizers, storing the Irish potato, marketing the crop, various Irish potato machinery tests, and how to grow second crop, thus making the bulletin a complete guide for the Texas grower.

Since publishing the first report upon this subject (bulletin No. 49) Irish potato growing has developed greatly in the state. Last year many carloads were shipped out of the state. To further encourage the development of this industry, special efforts are being made to place a copy of this bulletin in the hands of every truck grower in the state. The various truck growers' associations in the state are requested to send lists of their members to the Experiment Station who have heretofore received the Station bulletins, and who would care to have a copy of this bulletin before planting this year's crop.

R. H. PRICE, Horticulturist. College Station, Texas.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. In this department questions upon the subjects within the province of Texas Stock and Farm Journal receive answers. Inquiries are invited.

JOHNSON GRASS. Hacienda Sta. Lucia, Sta. Ana, F. C. Hidalgo, Mexico. Editor Texas Stock and Farm Journal: I wish to inform you where I can buy Johnson Grass seed, and also how many acres a bushel will grow? Is it best adapted to wet or dry land? I would like to get enough seed to sow twenty acres.

W. N. COOK. Answer:—The seed can be bought from almost any seed house in Texas. It is generally sold by the pound, and twenty-five to thirty pounds is enough for one acre of land. It will make better hay grown on moderately dry land, as it stands drouth well and grown on wet land the stalk would be too coarse and woody.

M. A. POER, a pioneer of Bowie county, died at his residence at Poer in that county January 8, aged 82 years. He came to Bowie county in 1857.

THE OPEN DOOR POLICY.

Dear Sir:—I can report my cancer as entirely healed up and shows but a very slight scar, which is more than I expected, considering the very large cavity after the cancer came out. I had shown it, previously to using your treatment, to our local physicians and they all pronounced it incurable, except by the knife. I used your medicine, but advised not to meddle with it, but your cure has done the job, and that without any pain, and I am sure I am very grateful. Very truly yours, J. B. PROCTOR.

This case was cured with home treatment. A free book is sent telling what they say of the treatment. Address: Dr. Byrd, Drayton, N. Kansas City, Mo. (If not alluded to, cut this out and send to some suffering one.)

COME QUICK TO SPOKANE. Big money to be made raising grain, fruit, vegetables, stock and poultry. Fine land cheap. Write for literature and particulars. Chamber of Commerce, Spokane, Wash.

Mr. W. J. Buss, Golden, Ill., advertises in our columns the well known Lightning Seed Sower. It will be sent by mail prepaid at the price named. All interested in grasses will be glad to write him, as this is an article of great economy for all who can use it. Illustrated announcement elsewhere in this issue.

NEW GIANT SHUCK GRINDER. Grinds ear corn with shuck on. Works on any size and style of ear corn. Manufactured by Feed Mills, Cat-tanooga, Tenn. Write for literature. J. A. FIELD, Manufacturer, P. O. Box 1622 and 1624 N. 1st Street, St. Louis, Mo.

LIGHTNING WELL MACHINERY. IS THE STANDARD STEAM PUMPS, AIR LIFTS, GASOLINE ENGINES. WRITE FOR CIRCULAR LITERATURE. THE AMERICAN WELL WORKS, AURORA, ILL., CHICAGO, DALLAS, TEXAS.

THE CHAMPION ONE-MAN SAW. Has a record of one cord per hour. No backache. No wet. Cut wood with this. Write for literature. PAMOUS MANUFACTURING CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

THE LIGHTNING SEED SOWER. GUARANTEED TO sow 60 acres per day (either horseback or on wheels). Write for literature. W. J. BUSS, 17 Day St., Golden, Ill.

GOLDMETER. For measuring Gold, Silver and other minerals. In fact, all kinds of liquids. Catalogue, 20c. Stamp: U. S. Standard, Dept. of Geology, Washington, D. C.

Seed Corn. A complete assortment of the leading varieties of Fruit and all berries. No dross in our seed selection. We retain only the best. Cashwise and South Texas varieties our specialty. Write for our catalogue containing descriptions, suggestions and general information. We can save you money on large orders.

FRED W. MALLY, Manager. GALVESTON NURSERY & ORCHARD CO., Huston, Galveston county, Texas.

however, to add materially to the cotton crop of the year. But enough for the cotton mills in this section of the state if they have need to use it. There is enough, too, to make several boat loads from Denison to Shreveport, if steamboats ply on the river any time soon. A great many fruit trees have been shipped into this part of the country this winter. Most of the apples received are of the early varieties, and early June are favorites. The early apple crop in this part of the country is never a failure, while the late crop is sometimes poor. The early part of the season has more rain than the latter portion, making better conditions for fruit growing.

A SIMPLE WAY TO SMOKE MEATS. Krausers' Liquid Extract of Smoke is Convenient, Cleanly and Economical.

The old smoke house is being turned into a tool house in many quarters where the advantages of Krausers' Liquid Extract of Smoke are being appreciated. The Liquid Extract is no longer a novelty, and its use has spread rapidly to all parts of the country in the last few years. It is made from the finest selected hickory and contains the same ingredients of the wood that preserve the meat when it is smoked in the old way. Liquid Extract of Smoke is made by E. Krauser & Bro., of Milton, Pa., who will send full information to anyone interested. The Extract can be applied with a brush or sponge. It improves the flavor of the meat, is perfectly healthful and is a better protection against insects than the smoke of the smoke house.

One of Michigan's Most Prominent Citizens, at the Age of 74, Cured of Cancer, Pronounced Incurable by Several Physicians, Cured by Dr. Wm. O. Byrd.

THE OPEN DOOR POLICY. Sends all right, but the open field had better have a fence around it with one or two Page Gates. PAGE WOVES WIRE FENCE CO., ADRIAN, MICH.

A HOT PROPOSITION. I have a lot of good land for sale. Write for literature. C. R. HARPER, P. O. Box 5, Marshalltown, Ia.

THE CHAMPION ONE-MAN SAW. Has a record of one cord per hour. No backache. No wet. Cut wood with this. Write for literature. PAMOUS MANUFACTURING CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

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Texas Stock and Farm Journal,

Texas' great agricultural and live stock weekly, furnishes its readers eight scientific departments pertaining to agriculture and live stock, news departments, telegraphic market reports, three local pages, household department and interesting and instructive correspondence and miscellany. In short, TEXAS STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL is

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Does what its name implies, and more. It furnishes the news from your own neighborhood, from the whole country, from the whole world, besides miscellaneous matter and discussions of political and commercial problems of the utmost importance.

The two papers are a great bargain at price named. Send \$1.50 and get both for one year. This offer applies to both renewals and new subscriptions for both papers. Address:

TEXAS STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL, Dallas, Fort Worth or San Antonio.

Texas Stock and Farm Journal, Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly, The Gentlewoman and A Handsome Calendar for 1900. (For New Subscribers Only.)











