

The Farm.

It is said that if a sheep is kept fat the wool will be coarser than if kept in moderate flesh.

A hog-grower in Massachusetts has proved that he can get more and better crops by setting one pole to a hill than two poles, as is generally practiced.

A Southern journal advises farmers to collect the seeds of sumac, and plant them like any other crop. It thinks this practice would produce sumac of a superior quality to that now gathered.

A correspondent of the Farmer's Gazette, published at Richmond, states that in the neighborhood of Suffolk, Va., the peanut crop has proved more profitable than either corn, cotton, or sweet potatoes.

STEAR IN LOUISIANA.—"A. B. B." writes from New Orleans: "We are hearing much from the North now about our own peculiar crops, for your Western small sugar mills and cooperators are revolutionizing the sugar culture, which it was once thought only the very rich could undertake."

A poor farmer asked how I kept my ploughs so bright. I told him whenever I got through using them in the fall I cleaned and gave them a good coating of grease. He said the practice "didn't pay." Perverse person, does he not know that the oil and labor cost less than the waste of metal by rust, and does he not remember that by spring ploughing is half done before his ploughs are in working order.

CABBAGE CATERPILLARS.—G. W. Grant, Oceana Co., Mich. We cannot utter without a description, which "worm" it is that injures the cabbages. Try trapping, if salt, lime, and plaster have failed. Break off a cabbage-leaf and lay it over the head at night; the worms will go under this for shelter, and may be destroyed early in the morning. A coop of chickens will help keep them in check.

THE ECLIPSE AND THE CORN CROP.—A good many honest souls really believe that there will be a short corn crop because there will be an eclipse of the sun next August. We cannot prove that there will be a good crop, but these are facts. The moon will cut off the light of the sun partly, for less than half a day, because it will be exactly between the sun and the earth. Once in every month the moon always comes near the same relative position, and almost every year it eclipses the sun to some part of the earth. The only difference between this year and any other is, therefore, that the corn crop, and every other, will get perhaps a quarter of a day's less sunshine than if the eclipse did not occur. The sun and moon, separately and conjointly, influence the tides; perhaps, also, aerial tides and storms, and the weather somewhat. They may, or may not. Somebody guesses so; but it is no guess-work to say that the eclipse will in no way affect the corn crop for good or ill.

Interesting to Cheese Factories.

William H. Comstock, Esq., one of the committee appointed at the American Dairyman's Convention to report to the commissioner of Internal Revenue the facts in relation to the manufacture and sales of cheese at the factories, bearing upon his decision respecting said sales; and if possible to secure a modification of the decision so as to accord with the law; hands us, as the result of his efforts, the following embodying the most important portions of the ruling of the commissioner: 1st. Unless the proprietor or his agent sells the cheese there is no liability. 2d. There would be no tax upon the sale made by a committee composed of the proprietor and one or more of the patrons. 3d. It is understood that the contract

to manufacture the cheese at a certain price per pound, does not include the sale of it. That the proprietors' contract with and relation to the patrons, as a manufacturer terminate with the making of the cheese, and that if he makes sale of a part or the whole of it, he usually does it under a subsequent contract, and always under a distinct one; that in selling as in making, he is not employee of an association, but acts for each individual patron who thinks proper to employ him, and does employ him; and that his lien for his pay as a manufacturer is not upon all the cheese for all the pay, but is upon the pro rata share of each patron for the sum due from him. I am of the opinion that in such a case the tax in question should not be assessed upon the proprietor's sales even though he act as a sole agent; that in making them he acts in a second and different capacity from that of manufacturer, and that his sales should be treated as though they were made personally by the individuals who employed them. The fact that the manufacturer is a firm instead of an individual, would not of course change the ruling, provided the relations between the patrons of the factory and the fictitious person known as the firm, are as above stated.

Very Respectfully,
E. A. ROLLINS, Commissioner.

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