

The Farm and Home

Wanted—A good book.

It should be the purpose of every farmer to purchase a fine class of seed and stock over his farm. He should buy from the companies he deems best by others, but should look to the price to be derived from a first quality seed over that of an inferior one. I think it may be set down as a rule that the man who uniformly raises the first quality of grain, stock and other products of his farm, will be a successful farmer and business man; and on the contrary, he who uniformly produces an inferior article as the product of his farm, or any other industry, will be a unsuccessful man in the business affairs of life. By this I would not be understood as saying that the unsuccessul farmer produces the best quality of product at all times, for the best efforts will sometimes be disappointed; seasons and circumstances have much to do in giving quality to the products of the soil, but in the main the farmer is responsible for the quality of the products of his farm.

Much may be due, however, to the peculiarities of season in giving quality as well as quantity to the products of the farm, but this is owing to climate rather than to the general results. A blight may come over the grain field and cause disadvantage, for which the farmer is not responsible, or insects may so damage the crop that the quality of his produce may be injured, but the farmer has no excuse for having bad grain, or grain of mixed varieties. We have a class of farmers who claim that their wheat turns to chaff, and that if they sow clean seed, they can not expect to reap a clean crop. But I would recommend to such farmers to try the experiment of sowing clean seed on clean ground, and see if it is not as true in temporal as in spiritual things, that "whatever a man soweth that shall he reap." It seems strange to me that intelligent men, as many do, should hold to this theory of transmutation of grain, or of that one instance, for it is not claimed to apply to other varieties of grain, but is a convenient excuse for carelessness, in my judgment.

"I frequently see a crop of white wheat with a large sprinkling of red wheat, and intermixed, which lessens its value in first quality of grain. We also see loss of four and ten percent, indeed, a quantity of old wheat, with a quantity of new wheat, from the ten percent per bushel, all of which is the result of State care in procuring clean seed, and which will often reduce the profits of the crop from ten to fifteen percent. It should be remembered that every dollar received for grain of quality grain, is worth profit for it costs no more to raise a very first-quality of grain than an inferior grade, and that the estimation of knowl-

edge that one has the right article in a market, more than pays the trouble it requires.

Last summer who said a wheat field could not be raised with all rye. Rye had but knew what would turn to chaff, and he now believes it would turn to rye, for the seed he sowed held only a little rye in it, not enough to lessen the price in market, and it must be the wheat had turned to rye. He did not see that the Hebrews had destroyed nearly all the wheat plant, and left the rye to spread and cover the ground, the same as is sometimes the case when a little chaff is sown with the wheat, and the wheat, being killed out, leaves the chaff to sprout.

Such are the consequences and losses to the farmer for want of care in sowing clean seed. Then again, how much is lost to the profits of the farmer by raising inferior stock, and keeping inferior cows for dairy. The practice of keeping an ordinary animal is a cost which is about a sacrifice to one as the raising of a scrub beast.

The cost of a scrub beast is worth twenty-five dollars a year, in worth but twenty-five dollars a year, when three years old, leaves the farm in debt for twice or three times that one, the one that price pays a half cent, and the cow that will make but three pounds of butter a week, will not keep to the one that will produce twice that amount.

The cost of a scrub beast is worth two hundred dollars more no more than the one that worth but half the amount. The looks of sheep that will shear six pounds of wool cost no more to keep than those that shear but four pounds per head. It can be readily seen that the unskilled farmer who is here and careful in all his farm operations, who tries to raise and produce the best article of crops and stock of all kinds, will reap a profit far exceeding that of the careless or indifferent person.

In these times there is the secret of economy, which in great measure accounts for all the difference between the wealthy and the poor among farmers. There source of economy is most useful, but in general the farmer who is careful in his operations will not neglect the other. In the thoughtful planning, he succeeds in all the business affairs of life, and in no pursuit is more so than in farming.

"F. P. Rocke, in the Rural Home.

And last and Leghorn.

Ernest Wright, of London, England, is a recent member to the Faculty of Agriculture, and \$1.50 for the University Fund.

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