

THE HISTORY OF ALFALFA OR LUCERNE

A Valuable Lesson Told by One Who Thoroughly Understands the Soil Conditions of this Province

HISTORY: Alfalfa was grown on the irrigated plains of Babylon long before the days of Nebuchadnezzar. Native of Central and Southern Asia, it spread into Greece and thence to Italy where it was spoken of by the poet Virgil. Having found its way to Spain it was taken by missionaries to Mexico, Chili and Peru.

It was introduced into California from Peru in 1854 and spread over the arid and semi-arid west which is now the principal source of American seed supply. Seed from Europe had been tried in New England from 1790 on, without success; but interest in it revived as a result of its great popularity in the West.

DESCRIPTION: Alfalfa is an upright branching perennial, one to three feet high. It has a single stem when young but increases with age of plant, number of cuttings, and treatment up to 360 in number. After cutting, the stubble dies down to a crown which then sends out a number of stems—this continues as often as cut unless crowded. From the crown a large tap root with branches goes down deeply, depending on condition of soil.

VARIETIES OR STRAINS: Swedish Alfalfa and Sand Lucerne are considered different species and named falcala and media respectively but we have a number of varieties or strains of the common Alfalfa or Medicago Sativa, as Turkestan, Rhenish and Minnesota or Grimm.

WOMAN'S 'CAUSE' IN AUSTRIA

In this era of woman's advancement and wider outlook, it is always interesting to know what points has been reached by the women of other countries. An American studying the suffrage movement in Europe, has written letters which give a glimpse of the movement in Austria, particularly in Vienna.

AN IDYL OF GOD'S LOVE BY REV DR NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS

The Story of the Prodigal Son From the Parable "Into the Far Country He Came Unto Himself."

In Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., the pastor, Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, preached on "The Parable of Prodigal Son as an Idyl of the Love of God." The text was from the words of the parable: "Into the far country." He came unto himself. "This my son was lost and his found." Dr. Hillis said: "This parable is a spark struck out on the anvil of events. The woman highway connecting Nazareth with the sea brought prosperity to Nazareth, and with commerce came luxury, luxury brought temptation, and then came moral wreckage.

THE EXQUISITE COURTESY OF JESUS.

Consider the exquisite courtesy of Jesus as it is illustrated in His handling of this domestic tragedy. Under Jesus' skillful touch the tragedy became a dry root that burst into one mass of blossoms. His kind heart found the cause of the tragedy in the fact that the younger son was not himself. When fever overtook a patient, and the fever broke into a convulsion, and the temperature climbs to 105 or 106, the sufferer passes into unconsciousness. His hands are always picking the coverlet, the tongue is always babbling incoherent sounds, the eyes are always open, but the patient is not himself.

THE DECEITS OF MEPHISTOPHELES.

This tragedy of Nazareth began with an irritation at home restraint and the weakening of the ties of affection. Like many a youth there comes a morbid moment of rebellion, with a desire to assert the claims of personal freedom, and a longing to break through all restraint and see the world. Youth longs for liberty, that soon becomes license. Soon this younger son, unto whom the father was beginning to transfer all his affections, determined to sever all homes.

A NEW AEROPLANE.

Sir Hiram Maxim has built an aeroplane which he believes to be superior to anything yet invented. The machine is a biplane forty-four feet in width and four-cylinder eight horse power engine weighs two hundred and twenty pounds, while its carburettor furnishes a supply of gas of correct and uniform density. The engine, petrol tank, and driver are grouped at an unusually low point in the machine, as the inventor's theory is that the centre of gravity should be much below the lifting parts.

an eagle are living unworthily of themselves. An eagle digging in a barnyard is not an eagle. When the lark soars and sings as it soars, and the eagle rises to greet the sun, and both are using their wings, then the lark is itself through the mastery of song, and the eagle is the king of birds through flight.

THE BEAUTY OF REPENTANCE.

Consider the beauty and pathos of that resolution to return to his father's house, and say "I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." What fascination belongs to this penitence in the prodigal's heart, the earnest pushing its sweet blossom up through the dead leaves of yesterday.

WHAT MAKES A MAN A MAN.

Having sown ingratitude toward his father, selfishness toward himself and heartlessness toward his friends (his mother seems to have been dead) the prodigal, who expected gilded palaces of vice, found a pigsty. Having been promised ambrosia, found husks; having looked forward to an endless dance with the daughters of pleasure and beauty, he found that he had been embracing a toothless hag, full of disease, and that his friends were human swine.

GOOD PHILOSOPHY.

A lady rang a door-bell and waited. Meantime she heard a musical voice, evidently from the cellar, ringing forth in a rollicking song, accompanied by a noise as of shovelling. She rang again. A youth came to the door and laughed, saying: "You must have been highly entertained. I did enjoy your music, truly," she replied. The singer explained: "You see, I don't like to shovel ashes one bit, so I always tune up when it has to be done. It seems to make the job shorter or easier, some way."

A MUSICAL THEORY WHO IS MUSICAL?

In this Season of Advancement the Following Article Will Give Some Helpful Answers.

Who is musical? My dictionary defines the term "musical" as "belonging to or producing music or agreeable sounds; melodious; pleasing to the ear." A most unsatisfactory definition this, if, indeed, it can be described at all as a definition. For example, many of those who are regular frequenters of metropolitan concert rooms have realized only too often and too well that the genuinely musical person present is emphatically not necessarily upon the platform.

Of course, taste occupies a great position in the mind of the musical. No doubt many of those present at a concert the other day who applauded vociferously—at the close of almost every one of the songs in one of the loveliest complete cycles that exists—were musical in a rough-and-ready way. Their taste was obviously bad, since their constant interruptions of the underlying (though unexpressed) thought of the cycle as a whole entirely destroyed the fusion created by the art of the composer and of his interpreter.

THE SEASON'S COLOR RIOT

There is a marked and artful simplicity about a majority of the reported model frocks which the best designers are showing. Aside from lace, which is lavishly used upon frocks of certain types, garniture are not greatly in evidence, and the designers seem inclined to obtain their effects through originality of life and subtle blending of color rather than through elaboration.