

Centenary of Mendelssohn

Born February 3, 1809



FELIX MENDELSSOHN

THE YEAR 1909 marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn, the famous German composer, conductor, pianist and organist. He was born February 3, 1809, at Hamburg, North Germany; died at Leipzig, Saxony, November 4, 1847.

He was son of a banker, grandson of a celebrated Jewish scholar and reformer. In mature life the father was influenced to renounce the Jewish faith and add Bartholdy to the family name to distinguish his branch from the orthodox members of the family. Father and mother, the latter also of the Jewish race, adopted the Christian religion, the children were baptized and brought up as Christians.

The life of the Mendelssohn family was very interesting and beautiful, the children unusually gifted, in the home an art atmosphere making for full development of the individual gifts. Felix received his first piano instruction from his mother, from his earliest days both parents were devoted to the fostering of his genius. The story of Mendelssohn's life is not the record of bitter poverty and Herculean efforts in overcoming obstacles; he stands out a genius accustomed all his days to wealth and refinement.

The Mendelssohn family moved to Berlin when Felix was scarcely three years old, and in this city his childhood and youth were passed. The parents were strict disciplinarians; the children kept hard at work at their music; rising at five in the morning to begin their tasks. During a visit to Paris Felix studied under Mme. Bigot; in Berlin was under the instruction of Carl Zelter and benefited for a season by work with Moscheles. At the age of nine he made his first public appearance, the youthful pianist winning favor. In his eleventh year Felix entered the Singakademie; the following year he began systematically to compose. To this period belong a trio for piano and strings, a sonata for piano and violin, a sonata for piano, pieces for the organ, songs, a comedy and a cantata.

It was the custom in the Mendelssohn family to hold musical performances at their home every other Sunday, a small orchestra assisting, and these musicals were of the greatest value to the young musician. He enjoyed the opportunity of having his works presented, and he always conducted.

For the Sunday musicals Felix constantly wrote new works; at the age of 17 produced the delightful "Midsummer Night's Dream Overture"—"conceived by a genius and executed by a master." His one opera was brought out publicly the year following the overture, and though given a favorable reception on its presentation at the Berlin opera house, the piece was shortly withdrawn. The year 1829 is marked by an important event, the performance under Mendelssohn's direction of Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion," which created a great sensation and led to the great Bach revival. Succeeding this event, an invitation to visit London was accepted. Mendelssohn made his first public appearance in England at a philharmonic concert, the concert opening with his C minor symphony, the author himself conducting the presentation of his work. The newcomer was most enthusiastically received, and it was from England Mendelssohn's fame as a composer spread abroad.

In London he published the first

book of his "Songs Without Words." In that city to the end he had an enthusiastic army of admirers, loved and beloved by the English public. In all he made ten visits to England. A short time before his death he journeyed to London to conduct a series of philharmonic concerts.

Of his work as conductor there stand forth most prominently his distinguished services while director of the Gewandhaus, Leipzig. In this city of Saxony he was very much at home, very happy, his work much appreciated—as it was not always in his home city of Berlin. In 1836 the University of Leipzig created him doctor of philosophy. From 1835 to 1841 he resided in Leipzig; the latter year yielded to the solicitations of the king of Prussia to return to Berlin. Official and court interference attended his efforts in Berlin, and he finally asked for liberty to withdraw, and found his way again to Leipzig. For a brief season he served as musical director at Düsseldorf conducted at the Lower Rhine festival; in England performances of his oratorio "Elijah" were given under his direction.

Mendelssohn's compositions from the first were marked by finish and neatness. He corrected and revised with utmost fastidiousness. Of the mass of work left behind by him only the briefest mention can be given. The "Midsummer Night's Dream," the overture work of his youth, stands as one of his best productions. His oratorios, "Elijah" and "St. Paul," are ranked as the most notable of his works. Other notable vocal works with orchestra are the symphony-cantata, "Lobgesang," the "Gutenberg Cantata," the ballade "Die Erst Walpurgisnacht," music to the choruses Antigone, "Athalia" and "Aedipus in Colonus." He was author of much important church music in addition to that mentioned; his orchestral works include four symphonies and several concert overtures; the chamber music includes seven string quartets, a sonata for violin and piano, an octet for strings, and various other works. He wrote for the organ three preludes and fugues, six sonatas, preludes in C minor; the piano compositions are numerous and distinguished. Fluency, grace and elegance are considered the chief technical characteristics of his music.

Mendelssohn was deeply interested in the establishing of a school of music in Leipzig, and in 1843 saw this cherished wish fulfilled, the date of the opening of the Leipzig conservatory. He labored unremittingly for the success of the school, brought to it not only his prestige, but a practical business ability of much value.

Mendelssohn married at the age of 28, in his marriage good fortune still faithful, young Cecile Jeanne of Frankfurt, as amiable and interesting as she was beautiful. His domestic life was idyllic, center of all Cecile, as is shown in the letters. Five children were born to the pair.

Overwork and sudden shocks are thought to have been the cause of his death. The unexpected loss of his father was a great blow; his mother's end occurred in the same way, suddenly; and last came word that his sister Fanny, close friend and counselor, had been stricken while conducting a rehearsal of her little choir. Felix never recovered from the shock of Fanny's death, a few months later death coming to him. He was laid to rest in the Alte Dreifaltigkeits Kirche in Berlin, his resting place marked by a cross.

KATHERINE POPE.

AS TO THE PROPER CARE OF THE FLOCK

Lambing Time, Winter Shelter and the Dog Nuisance Must Be Considered—By Walter J. Quick, M. S., Ph. D., Animal Husbandry, Virginia.

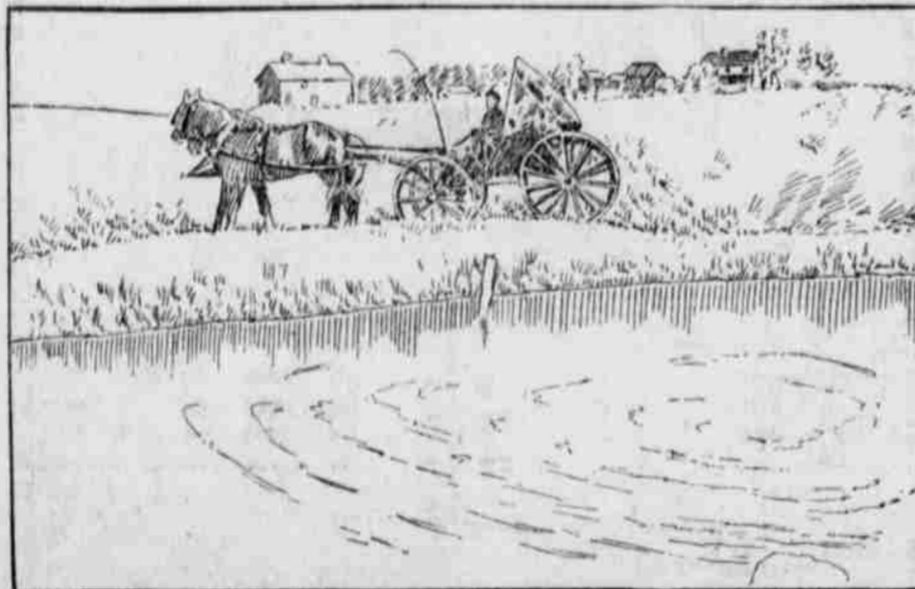
According to the reports collected, the most favorable time for lambs to drop, if intended for the June market, is between February 15 and March 1. In order to have lambs drop February 15, the ram should be turned with the ewes about September 15. Lambs dropped before this date suffer the hardships of the winter, and unless the ewes are very liberally fed, do not get sufficient milk to make them grow rapidly. These lambs become more or less stunted and have not a plump and attractive appearance when marketed. There is also a greater possibility for loss with these lambs, and a much longer season for heavy feeding with the ewes, making an additional expense without a corresponding increase in weight; while lambs dropped after February 15 are less liable to loss from the most severe winter weather.

This tremendous loss would have been almost entirely prevented had precaution been taken at the proper time, as the lambs were apparently strong when born, but afterward perished from starvation.

It is an exceptional case when a ewe has not sufficient milk to at least keep her lamb alive, if she has been properly fed a month previous to lambing. The feed need not be expensive—it is

Frequently a lamb can be saved if an attendant is present at the proper time. The young ewes especially often require assistance in lambing. If a ewe does not drop her lamb within a reasonable length of time after labor pains are noticeable, there is a cause for the delay. Frequently a lamb is coming with its head bent back over its shoulder, or perhaps twins are coming together, or some other unnatural position. A little manipulation of the foetus will frequently straighten out the difficulty, thereby saving the life of the lamb, and not infrequently that of the ewe.

Some ewes refuse to own their lambs, and other ewes refuse to let the lambs nurse. Some ewes will accept strange lambs. When a ewe loses her lamb it is advisable to keep up her milk flow by milking, as she will frequently accept a strange lamb if it is given to her soon after lambing. Frequently a set of triplets or twins are dropped by a ewe and she has not sufficient milk to nourish all. If the ewe that has lost her own lamb is placed in a close pen and away from other sheep she will readily adopt one of the twins or triplets, thereby raising a good lamb instead of running idle and becoming too fat for breeding the following season. An orphan lamb



Stagnant Pool—A Breeding Place for Parasites, Especially the Stomach Worm—Supply Running Water.

not necessarily succulent, although that is of great advantage—but it should be rich in protein, palatable, digestible, and given in liberal amounts at regular intervals, twice a day. Clover, cowpea or soy bean hay, corn silage, turnips, sugar beets and some well-cured—not moldy—corn fodder may constitute the greater portion of the bulky ration, together with a grain ration of oats, corn, bran and a small per cent. of linseed oil meal or cottonseed meal. These grains are better mixed together; but in case it is de-

may often be given a ewe that has just lost a lamb, if the dead lamb is rubbed over the strange lamb while wet, or the skin of the dead lamb tied on the orphan, since the ewe's affections are directed by the odor of her lamb.

In many sections the dog nuisance is a great detriment to the sheep industry. The direct loss from severe chasing and worrying is often not so great as the loss that follows. Breeding ewes that have been badly worried and frightened rarely, if ever, entirely recover. The result is usually weak and inferior lambs at the next lambing season, with some abortions and many abnormal presentations of the foetus. In fact, many breeders of registered sheep consider their breeding flock almost ruined after having been severely chased by dogs. Frequently a large number of ewes will not breed for some time after being chased and badly frightened.

The efficiency of any dog law depends largely on its enforcement; but too frequently it is never enforced, many worthless dogs being allowed to run at large that would be controlled or destroyed if a rigid dog law was enforced.

One of our illustrations shows a dog-proof fence on the Virginia experiment station grounds, constructed as follows: The woven-wire fence consists of 17 horizontal wires—the three lower wires 1½ inches apart, the width between wires gradually increasing to five inches at top. The vertical stays are six inches apart. The wire is fastened to posts set 25 feet apart, the bottom wire being three inches from the ground. One-barbed wire is set midway between the bottom horizontal wire and the ground. One-barbed wire is fastened to the posts, three inches higher than the top wire. Two-barbed wires are attached eight inches apart, to pieces of 2x6 scantling nailed to the posts above the wire with 20-penny nails. These pieces are set outward and upward with the posts.

Cost of Materials.
Red cedar posts 12½ cents each.
Woven wire fence 27½ cents per rod.
Four-barbed wire 15 cents per rod.
Total 55 cents per rod.
The 2x4 scantling costs about \$18 per thousand and adds about one cent per rod to cost of the fence.

Any other closely constructed fence would answer the same purpose.

Keep Clean.—The milker should keep his hands and his clothes clean, especially during the process of milking. A damp towel should be used to clean the udders of the cows before the milking is begun. The milking should always be done with dry hands, and the milk drawn into a covered pail with a fine wire mesh strainer top. These rules when carefully adhered to, will aid very materially in keeping the milk clean and wholesome.

Prevention Best.—No subject connected with the management of cows is of more vital importance to the dairyman than the prevention of disease in his herd.

FORWARD TRADE MOVE

NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMERCE TO PUSH AMERICAN INTERESTS. By WALDON FAWCETT



THEODORE L. WEED

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF COMMERCE

Representatives of leading chambers of commerce, boards of trade and other influential commercial bodies recently gathered in the city of Washington and perfected the organization of a national, co-operative trade extension body that is bound to prove of the greatest potency in the promotion of American commercial interests at home and abroad. The delegates present at the inaugural meeting came from all parts of the country and there is no doubt but that the new organization is thoroughly representative of the business life of the nation in its broadest sense.

This new actor in American commercial and industrial progress is to be known as the National Council of Commerce. The first steps looking to the projection of this new force into the Yankee trade field at home and abroad were taken about a year ago when Secretary Straus of the federal department of commerce and labor—himself a business man as well as the official head of that branch of the national government having to do with commercial matters—called a preliminary conference of leading business men in the hope of paving the way for just such an association as has now been created. A temporary organization was effected at that time but it was only at the recent gathering at the national capital that the unique project assumed concrete shape and was put on a practical working basis.

The prime movers in this undertaking confidently predict that it will become the greatest trade organization in the world. The high character of the interests involved and the power of the affiliated organizations can not, perhaps, be better indicated than by presenting the list of members of the executive committee of the new body. This board of directors comprises B. A. Eckhart of the Chicago board of trade; Mahlon E. Kline, of the Trades League of Philadelphia; William McCarrall of the New York board of trade and transportation; George I. McCarthy of the American Meat Packers' association; H. E. Miles of the National Association of Manufacturers; H. Mosle of the Galveston chamber of commerce; Edward A. Filene of the Boston Merchants' association; George C. Perkins of the San Francisco chamber of commerce; L. A. Ransom of the Atlanta chamber of commerce; G. D. Rogers of the Minneapolis chamber of commerce; Gustav H. Schwab of the Merchants' association of New York; James E. Smith of the Business Men's league of St. Louis; D. A. Tompkins of the Southern Manufacturers' club, and Frank B. Wiborg of the Manufacturers' club of Cincinnati.

At the recent meeting which was attended by more than 50 delegates, by-laws were adopted and officers were selected for the ensuing year. Mr. Gustav H. Schwab, well known to business men throughout the country through his connection with the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, was chosen as chairman of the permanent organization. B. A. Eckhart of Chicago was elected vice-chairman; William R. Corwine, secretary, and Frank B. Wiborg of Cincinnati, treasurer. Meetings will be held annually and permanent headquarters will be maintained for the conduct of "missionary work" on behalf of the American trade interests which is one of the principal objects of the new organization. Although this is the first and only association of the kind yet projected on this side of the Atlantic, somewhat similar organization have for years existed in countries which are the most formidable trade rivals of the United States—namely Germany, France, Great Britain, etc., and it was the object lesson afforded by these foreign bodies as promoters of commercial development that spurred the national government to foster the present organization here.

Secretary Straus who, with his right-hand man, Mr. Theodore L. Weed, and the assistant secretary of commerce and labor, Mr. William R. Wheeler of California, were instrumental in starting the ball rolling, will henceforth be connected with the organization only in an advisory capacity, they preferring to leave the active direction of affairs in the hands of the business men themselves. However, Secretary Straus hopes that one of the ultimate results of this new movement will be to bring about a closer relationship between the commercial interests of the country and the national government. In speaking of



SECY. STRAUS

the matter Secretary Straus said: "Unfortunately the national government has never up to this time been brought as closely in touch as is desirable with the tremendous power and influence and ability of American commercial life because the interests involved have not been brought together in the concrete form necessary to enlighten our government officials and secure their co-operation." In future he believes that, thanks to the new council of commerce, the federal government and the commercial interests of the country will be enabled to work hand in hand. All local or national organizations in any way interested will be invited to make common cause by joining the new council and the nucleus of membership already obtained indicates that there will be the fullest representation of the leading commercial, manufacturing, exporting and importing interests.

CARRIED OFF BY LION.

Horrible Fate of Intrepid Hunter Who Fell Asleep.

Near Tsavo station, 133 miles from Mombassa, during the construction of the line, 29 Indian coolies were killed and eaten by lions, a writer on "Roosevelt's Hunting Grounds" in the National Magazine says. Naturally there was a panic; the men could not work, and three young men, Messrs. Hubner, Parent and Ryal, took a car down to the dangerous locality to slay the slayers of men. The car was left on the side track at the site of a former station long since discontinued, where a few days before a lion had actually sprung upon a man on an open railway truck as the train slowed down at the station platform and carried him, vainly shrieking for help, into the jungle.

The men knew they must keep watch against these man-eating beasts which had lost all fear of man and would exert their utmost subtlety and strength to feed their consuming desire for human flesh. It was arranged that a sentinel should be always on guard, and Ryal held the midnight watch, sitting, rifle in hand, where he could command the doors and windows. Parent made a sleeping place for himself on the floor, Hubner occupied an upper berth, and all three anticipated a successful hunt next morning.

About two o'clock, in the murky gloom of the tropical night, overcome by weariness and the enervating heat, Ryal dropped asleep. A pair of lambent eyes sought him out from the half-open door, a noiseless, powerful form crept by or over Parent as he lay asleep, and seizing him in his powerful jaws the man-eater of Tsavo sprung out through the glass and sash of the nearest window into the cover of the jungle, where Ryal's whitened bones were found later.

This tragedy caused the assembling of a great hunting party which swept the country about Tsavo, and among the lions killed was one great old lion which had imbedded in his scarred and lately-healed hide several fragments of window glass, which undoubtedly identified him as the slayer of poor Ryal.

Pawnshop in Magistrate's Office.

A novelty in pawnshops is to be found in Ichang, China. The town contains a small pawnshop in the magistrate's office, run by the prisoners. The rate of interest is about one cent per 40 cents per month, except during the last three months of the year, when it is reduced to about one-half cent.

Bibles Sent from London.

During the six months between last Easter and Michaelmas 1,436 cases packed with Scriptures, weighing altogether 154 tons, were sent out from the London headquarters of the Bible society for shipment abroad.