

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



By William Pitt

Prof. W. N. Munson recommends for treatment of old orchards to plow as early as possible in the spring, harrow at once and apply about 500 pounds of fertilizer to the acre, then harrow about once in two weeks until the middle of August, when a cover crop of rye or spring vetch should be sown. In working among the trees he finds the traceless harness of great value. The exact time and method of tillage is not so important as to be sure that a fair amount of tillage is given.

In the production of milk and cream on the farm the farmer seldom stops to consider that there should be placed a value on the forage which the cows consume when on pasture or that the labor necessary to feed, milk and properly care for the cows and the milk should be considered as an expense. On this account, too often, the farmer fails to fully understand the actual cost of his butter when ready for market.

The number of sheep in the world is estimated at 580,000,000, a number much greater than any other meat producing animal. Of this number there are in Australia 88,000,000; Argentina, 67,000,000; Turkey, 45,000,000; Russia, 45,000,000; Great Britain, 27,000,000. There are an even 100,000,000 goats, with not enough of them in the United States for enumeration.

Weeding out the poorest cows is the best way to improve the record of any dairy in the amount of milk and butter produced, in proportion to the number of cows kept. This process of weeding out will also aid materially to increase the profits.

Large bands of sheep do not thrive so well under farming conditions as smaller ones, and are moreover especially apt to injure the land, for they not only crop the growing plants too closely, but by buncang, tend to puddle the ground.

While bran can be used with a decided advantage in making up the rations of the dairy cows it should be used to excess as it will make cream hard to churn while the butter will be pale rather than a golden yellow.

When the time for culling the young stock comes, the experienced breeder has a decided advantage over the beginner. The former can tell at a much earlier date those birds that will be profitable to keep.

The time to place on surplus boxes is when the hive or lower story is full or nearly so. As long as bees have abundant room in the brood chamber to work they will not go into any surplus boxes.

If there were fewer dogs there would be more sheep; and as soon as farmers make up their minds to have more sheep and fewer dogs, they will bring that healthy condition to pass.

Perhaps the reason more root crops are not raised is that they require more work both in their cultivation and harvesting and in their storing and feeding.

Use up all the old straw stack for bedding the animals before warm weather comes. Manure is a by-product that figures part of the profits in live stock growing. Make the best of it.

It always seemed to us a great mistake to fatten sows and sell them after they have raised a litter. A sow that develops good breeding qualities should be kept as long as possible.

The cows of Holland live in their owner's house. But don't imagine the stalls are filthy like ours. They are as neat as your sitting room.

Good blood is essential to the producing of good horses, but not any more so than the material that forms the food for producing the animal when once started in life.

Ventilation, both night and day, is essential to the health of poultry. Many diseases among fowls are traceable to the want of pure air.

By some seedsmen sweet clover is catalogued as Bokhara or bee clover. It is a fine thing for bees, as the flowers secrete a fine quality of nectar and large amounts of it.

Remember to supply plenty of grit to the young poultry. They need it as much as mature birds. Grit forms part of their digestive system.

The increase in a flock of sheep represents almost entire profit to the man who has no rentals to pay and keeps his sheep on government lands.

The incubating season is practically over with poultry, so far as profit to the owner is concerned, and the Minnesota experiment station advises that all old nesting material be taken out and burned, and that all nesting boxes be disinfected and given a coat of liquid lice-killer; after which fresh straw may be placed in them for late layers. The creosote preparations sold at lumber yards for wood preserving have been used with good effect as lice killers.

The movement of so many thousands of young people from the farm to the city is largely caused by bad roads which isolate their homes and render the world about them inaccessible. The addition to the urban population lessens the producing force of the farm and at the same time creates a greater demand for farm products. This means a higher cost of living and an undesirable situation results.

The minus quality of our soils lies not so much on the chemical side of the soil as upon the wretchedly poor physical condition induced through the lack of any attempt to return to the soil that vital attribute which makes for productiveness—humus; which together with rational tillage and use of manures, constitutes the best key for unlocking the storage of latent plant food contained in the soil.

The cow is instinctively the most courteous animal in the world. She always responds to better treatment. What shall we say for some of the men who own her and use her with a nigardliness that shows how little they know of a cow and how little they appreciate her.

If the dairy cow is in a good healthy condition and her milk supply profits counteract her actual expense of keeping, she is worth the time and trouble of keeping her but on the other hand, should she consume more feed than her profit warrants, get rid of her as soon as possible.

When doing the tree planting, do not forget to put a few trees in a corner of the pasture fields, if there is such a thing as fenced pasture on the farm. Protect these for a few years, and they will protect the stock for many more.

Animals are like human beings—sometimes they will eat more than at others, and if a feeder acts in accordance with the demands of the animals under his control, it means safe and sure economy to the man who pays the bill.

The best time to thin peaches is just when the pit is hardening. In the country between 35 and 40 degrees latitude, this is done June 10 to 15. Further south, of course, the work should begin earlier.

From a business point of view, the hog is described as "a great national resource, a farm mortgage lifter and debt-payer, and the most generally profitable domesticated animal in American agriculture."

Don't hesitate about paying a good price for a pure bred sire, provided he is well bred and good individually. The money will come back to you fourfold in the first crop of youngsters.

Celery makes most of its growth during September and October, and if you can get plants of these varieties out in July and August, and a root system started, the chances are good for a crop.

In fattening both fowls and chickens it must be remembered that the less exercise they get the quicker they will fatten. It is difficult to fatten well fowls that have a free range.

Foods vary in quality owing to different conditions under which they are grown. This is one reason why a prescribed ration will not always produce the same results.

For comb honey, a hive a little more shallow in the brood nest than the regular body is preferable, as it forces the honey up into sections just where it is wanted.

Farmers and feeders would do well to pay more attention to the root crops in their attempt at getting the ideal feeding ration, both for beef and dairy cattle.

One great advantage sweet clover has over a great many crops is that it will keep in check almost all of the noxious weeds with which we are troubled.

Tuberculosis in chickens has been found in five cases this year by the state hygienic laboratory at the University of Wisconsin.

It is highly desirable that pigeons of all kinds should assume their new garb before the cold, damp dark days of winter set in.

To make the greatest profit out of swine it is necessary to produce gains cheaply. This can best be accomplished by furnishing plenty of forage.

To get the best financial results from a flock of mutton sheep it is essential that they combine a good fleece with a good "leg of mutton."

The sow chosen for breeding should be selected from the best animals in the best available herd in the farmer's neighborhood.

THE LIME LIGHT

IN CHARGE AT WEST POINT



Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Barry, U. S. A., who has become superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, is what Supreme Court Justice O'Gorman recently termed "a typical product of New York city." He was born and reared in the old First ward, and there are now in New York men who will tell you that "Tom" Barry was the handsomest boy in the old ward, and that when he came back from West Point on furlough the younger boys were wont to point him out as their hero.

General Barry was one of the popular cadets during the four years he was at the academy. As an athlete he stood in the front rank, and he stood high as a student. In June, 1877, he received his diploma, and as a second lieutenant was assigned to the famous Seventh cavalry, Custer's old command. After three years in the Seventh General Barry was transferred to the infantry and assigned to the First Infantry as a first lieutenant. Two years later he was promoted captain, and after that passing through every grade until in August, 1903, President Roosevelt made him a brigadier general. In April, 1908, the same president promoted him to his present rank, the highest under the present law that an army officer can attain.

General Barry as superintendent at West Point is the second officer of his rank to hold that post since West Point was founded. The other was Lieut. Gen. John M. Schofield, who was a major general when appointed superintendent in 1876.

No officer in the army has a finer record than General Barry. In the Spanish war he was an adjutant general, and after the close of that war he saw hard service in the Philippines. When the Cuban government failed to make good several years ago, with the result that the Americans had to reoccupy the island, General Barry was designated by President Roosevelt as commander-in-chief of the Army of Cuban Pacification, as it was known, and in that capacity he did his work so thoroughly that when the island was for a second time turned back to its own people to rule General Barry was accorded when he left an ovation such as few officers have ever received at home or abroad.

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FEDERAL CHIEF OF MINES



In the appointment of Dr. Joseph A. Holmes to be director of the new bureau of mines it is conceded in Washington that probably the best equipped man for the position in the United States has been gained for this important post.

Ever since congress passed the bill creating the bureau and giving it authority to investigate mine disasters, make experiments and suggest means whereby accidents may be decreased and the yearly casualty list shortened, efforts have been made by hundreds of interested persons to have Dr. Holmes selected as chief. The indorsement of all the coal operators' associations has been given, every prominent mining engineer in the country, including John Hays Hammond, has made his plea for Dr. Holmes, and the miners' union has added its efforts in his cause.

Three great delegations visited Washington early in the summer to urge the appointment, the managers of sixty collieries joined in the laudatory chorus, and sixty-two senators put their names to a petition in his behalf.

All this recognition was won by Dr. Holmes while serving as chief technologist of the technological branch of the geological survey. In this capacity he was carrying on in a minor way the work which he now will develop to the fullest extent.

While the operations of the technological bureau have not been widespread, because of lack of funds and authority, still the men under Dr. Holmes were able to diminish mine disasters. They personally saved the lives of many imprisoned miners by going to their rescue in the face of dangers which would have meant death to less experienced men with poorer equipment.

The work of making mines safe has occupied the attention of Dr. Holmes for years, and he has made rapid advancement in the finding of effective means to the end which he has sought. He gained the confidence of labor and capital, and it is well known here that his subordinates are loyalty itself to the chief.

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WOMAN WHO COST A MILLION



The series of exquisite gowns worn by Mrs. William B. Leeds of New York, Newport and London, has been the feature of the season at the ultra-fashionable watering place of Deauville, France. She is reported as having had great social success and has given a succession of delightful entertainments. Mrs. William B. Leeds, it will be remembered, is the woman who cost her husband one million dollars, and who refused the importunities of royal and noble suitors who were after her fortune, estimated at thirty times that amount.

Her maiden name was Nannie Stewart. She was the daughter of a wealthy Cleveland banker and was said to be the handsomest girl in Ohio. She married George E. Worthington. They disagreed, and Leeds, also a married man, became infatuated with her. It is said that Leeds paid his wife one million dollars for a divorce. Mrs. Worthington also secured a legal separation from her husband, and three days later the wedding took place.

Leeds made his new bride the present of jewelry worth over a million, a steam yacht, and a two million dollar palace in New York city. While on a visit to Paris, Leeds bought his wife a \$200,000 pearl necklace. She wore this on several occasions, had them unstrung and they were exported in a bag to the United States and entered at the custom house as loose pearls.

Then began her battle with the treasury, which has become celebrated. Although the pearls were apparently imported by a Paris jeweler, the customs authorities considered the action a subterfuge and demanded the 60 per cent. customary duty on a necklace. Mrs. Leeds insisted that they were dutiable at 11 per cent. as indiscriminate pearls and won the day and incidentally some \$50,000 which otherwise would have gone to the government.

TO HEAD THE GOULD FAMILY



One of the sons of the very rich who does not believe that his life should be given up to idleness and sports is Kingdon Gould, the eldest of the seven children of George Jay Gould. Kingdon is only twenty-three years old, but he knows a whole lot about his father's interests and, for that matter, about the interests of the entire Gould family. This is as it should be, for he is destined to take his father's place as the head of that multi-millionaire family. He is a well-educated man without evil habits and with a love for work. This week he left to join the rest of the Gould family in Europe. He would have gone with them last spring, but he felt that he wanted to familiarize himself with the Gould railroad system in the southwest. So instead of idling about the various resorts of the old world he has been working early and late and has gone over every foot of the 9,000 miles of the system, meeting the managers, foremen and even the laborers and studying the conditions. There is hardly a mile of track in the whole system with which he is not familiar.

With the prospect for a continuation and increase in good times Mr. Gould says he is entirely satisfied. Conditions in the southwest are very promising. The only possible deterrent influence is a political one and he believes that will disappear after the fall elections.

BOYS AND GIRLS

BOYS' FUN WITH BROOMSTICK

Youth Can Extract More Pleasure With Useful Household Article Than Anything Else.

It is a long time since brooms came into use. Their invention was of great benefit to the world in aiding to keep it clean—but have you ever considered another phase of their usefulness? Since brooms have been in use, just so long have broomsticks ever had a peculiar charm to boys. The average boy can extract more amusement from the broomstick than almost anything else with which he comes in contact, says People's Home Journal.

Divide the players in pairs of teams of two, providing as many broomsticks as there happen to be teams. Then direct them to grasp their respective broomsticks as shown in the accompanying illustration, each facing in the opposite direction. Then line them all up at the starting point ready to run the race.

They're off! But don't think they



A New Broomstick Pastime.

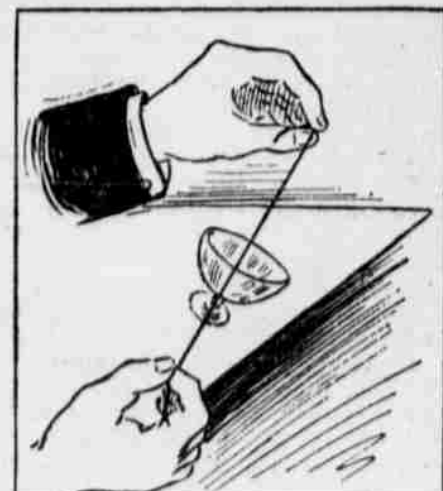
are going to do a 100-yard dash in record time. The funny part of the fore-and-aft race is that the chap who faces the front invariably tries to carry the boy facing the rear off his feet in his efforts to make speed. He forgets that it is impossible for his team mate to run backward half as fast as he runs forward, so the chances are there will be a good many trippings and the race will be won by the pair who can best adapt their irregular gait to each other instead of the swiftest contestants.

Now, as you will see, headwork is more apt to win when it is coupled with the footwork than speedy footwork alone. So use your heads to regulate your feet; in other words, use good "teamwork," as they say in athletics, and you'll be successful in this broomstick pastime of the "fore-and-aft race."

ILLUSION WITH SPINNING PIN

With Little Practice One May Successfully Imitate Very Many Objects.

Take a piece of rubber or elastic and run a pin through it as the figure shows. Twirling the ends of the elastic vertically between your thumbs and forefingers, and separating the hands in order to tighten it, you give the object a sufficiently swift rotation to enable it to produce the image of a drinking goblet, says 'Magical' Experiments. The illusion is the



A Spinning Pin.

more complete in proportion to the brightness of the pin and the light it shines in and the darkness of the background. In the picture, we suppose the operator placed in a dark room, through a hole in the shutter of which a ray of sunlight creeps in and illuminates the pin.

With a little practice you may succeed in imitating very many objects. Try for yourselves and see what you can make.

A Conditional Situation

If little girls were not so stupid and little boys were not such fools, and no one needed any teaching, there'd be no public grammar schools.

Where Size Counts. Edna thoughtfully considered a cow that was calmly grazing in a meadow across the way. "Mamma, how old is that cow?" she finally inquired. "She is four years old," answered Edna's mother. Edna considered the answer and from time to time appeared to be comparing herself with the cow. "Well," was her parting comment on the question, "I'm five and that cow is big enough to be fifty."

THE AIRY GIRAFFE.



Said a pert little dog to a tall giraffe, "It isn't that any one cares, but you look so stuck up that the neighbors laugh." And say you are putting on airs."

The giraffe was annoyed, as you could plainly see, and sniffed as he made reply: "If you had a nice long neck like me, you would do the same as I."

PRINCESS MARY NOW TYPIST

King George's Only Daughter Learns How to Operate Typewriter—To Learn Stenography.

Princess Mary, King George's only daughter, has recently learned to use a typewriter.

There are two women typists attached to the secretarial staff of Marlborough House, which is the king's residence, one of whom, at the princess' request, taught her how to operate the machine. The princess proved an apt pupil and devoted her self so assiduously to the work that after a few weeks of instruction and practise she was able to work a type writer at a fair rate of speed.

During the reigning family's recreation at Balmoral, Scotland, her royal highness will assist in typing some of her father's more private correspondence.

The princess intends to learn stenography also and is keenly looking forward to helping her mother, Queen Mary, regularly with her correspondence when the royal family is settled in Buckingham palace.

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VISITING.

"My little girl, I hope you tried your very best to be. Quite ladylike and well-behaved. When you were out to tea?"

"And that you said: 'Yes, if you please, when things were offered you; Or, 'No, I thank you,' quietly, just as I told you to?'"

"Yes, mamma, dear, I smiled and said: 'Yes, thank you,' so politely; And 'If you please,' and sat up straight and always acted right."

"I didn't say, 'No, thank you,' though. Because, mamma, you see, I wanted all they helped me to when I went out to tea."

TELLING AGES OF ANIMALS

Not Yet Possible to Determine Age at Which Many Sea and Land Creatures Die.

Some sea creatures and a few land creatures live so long that it has not yet been possible for man to determine the age at which it is natural for them to die. It is stated, for instance, that in 1497, in a European lake, a pike was caught which could not have been less than 270 years old. There was a brass ring in the fish's lower jaw, and on the ring an inscription showing that the ring was placed there in the year 1230—267 years previously. Again, if the bone plates in a whale's mouth, which are said to increase regularly each year, are an indication of the creature's age, as is believed, then 400 years is not an unusual lifetime for a whale. Even the common ring trout lives from 30 to 50 years.

The natives of India believe that elephants live to be 300 years old. One was kept in captivity 150 years, and the age of the animal at the time of his capture was not known. Camels normally die between the ages of 40 and 50, horses from 20 to 30, oxen at 20, sheep at 8 or 9 and dogs at 12 or 14. Swans 100 years old and ravens older have been known, while pheasants and ordinary chickens live 12 or 15 years—provided they do not find their way to the frying pan many seasons earlier.

Pillow Climbing.

In the middle of the floor, some little distance apart, place sofa cushions, stools, umbrella stands, large vases, etc. From among the company choose some one who has never been "hoaxed" and ask him to first walk over the course around and between these articles, so as to fix in his mind their situation and distance apart. He is then blindfolded and told to find his way carefully among them again so as not to touch anything.

Very gingerly he will do so, and when triumphant over his success the bandage is taken from his eyes, to his surprise, not an article remains on the floor. All were quickly and quietly removed while he was being blindfolded.

His cautious movements and tacking here and there to avoid the obstacles that are not there, make fun for the onlookers.