

MEN OF ALL SORTS

But Not of Conditions, and Hart-ridge Was the One Among Many.

By H. M. EGBERT.

Hart-ridge knew that he would be chosen, though there had been thirty-seven applicants, by the head nurse's count, in answer to the hospital's brief advertisement. Thirty-six others! Hart-ridge had never realized before how low he had sunk, until he actually found himself sitting in a line with them in the reception room. There were men of all sorts and ages, but not of conditions.

The men rose awkwardly as the physician sauntered in, accompanied by the head nurse. He looked the men over as though they were animals. "You can go—we don't want you," he said to the first. "Nor you," he added, to the next. The third man looked more reputable, but when the doctor approached he detected the smell of spirits upon his breath. "Nor you—nor your kind," he continued angrily. So he went down the line, dismissing the majority at a glance. He looked at Hart-ridge and passed him over and continued his monologue until at last there remained only Hart-ridge and three others.

"Now, men," said the doctor, "it's between you four. You read the advertisement; we want a healthy man for blood transfusion, to save a woman's life. It won't be a trifle, either. It's going to mean more than you estimate, to lose a couple of quarts of blood. Don't think you'll earn your five hundred easily. You may die. Now then, does anyone want to go?"

There was a pause; then two men shuffled out awkwardly. Poor, broken-spirited creatures though they were; the love of life was strong in them. Dr. Briggs looked at the two who remained, and his choice fell upon Hart-ridge. He selected him. Two minutes later he was taking down his pedigree.

"You're willing to sign an agreement absolving us from further responsibility?" he asked, when the



"Dr. Briggs Has Spoken to Me About You."

medical tests were ended. "Good! Have you any friends to be communicated with, in case the operation is unsuccessful?"

Hart-ridge knew what that meant. "No, sir," he answered.

"But why do you want to risk your life for five hundred dollars?" continued Dr. Briggs. "Are you out of work?"

"No," answered Hart-ridge quietly; "out of prison."

The doctor looked at him keenly.

"I was sent away ten months ago for forgery," said Hart-ridge, in explanation. "I was a bank clerk in the Merchants' and Oriental—underpaid, wretchedly poor, and married. I wanted to play the market, and I lost. The judge let me off with a year as a first offender. My wife divorced me. Now I want the five hundred to go west."

Half an hour later Hart-ridge, bathed, clothed in a clean nightgown, was lying in bed, waiting the summons to the theater. His nurse enlightened him as to the process of the operation.

Strapped in his stretcher, he was carried to the operating room and transferred there to the glass table. On one side of this a flimsy screen of linen had been erected, and on the other side, so near that he could feel the screen tremble with every breath she took, was the patient. Hart-ridge wondered whether she were young or old. Somehow he obtained the impression that she was a young woman. He felt a sudden dignity in his position; the thought of the money made him wince now. He who had done so much harm and ruined one woman's life—might he not have gratuitously given this much to save another? After an inappreciable interval the surgeon began his work. Hart-ridge felt the momentary sting of the lancet; he saw the other doctor's head over the top of the screen as he performed the same service.

He felt comfortable. His mind, more active than was its wont, recurred incessantly to the woman not a cubit distant, so near that once his hand touched hers, with only the frail linen barrier between them. The money had now become a hideous menace to his peace of mind, robbing him at once of his self-esteem, so much as was left of it, and of his

chance of making reparation for his sin. He must refuse it. He must tell the surgeon instantly. He tried to speak to him, but there was an uncanny silence in the room which he did not dare disturb. Something had gone wrong with the lights, too, for all had gone out except a tiny globe in one corner, which burned with a strange sputtering sound that seemed to keep time with the beating of his heart. And all this sacrifice was vain, for he was selling his soul—selling his right to reparation for five hundred dollars. He must stop the operation and make a new bargain. He found his voice at last and shouted, but the light was roaring like a dynamo and the sound drowned his cries. He wrenched his arm away and—

"How are you feeling?" asked the nurse.

He opened his eyes. He was back in his bed and the daylight was streaming in through the open window near his head. He looked at her, astonished, uncertain.

"You fainted," she explained. "People generally do. But you'll be all right in a little while. It's only ten minutes since they brought you back."

"But the operation—?"

"Perfectly successful."

"I didn't—do anything? Didn't I shout or struggle?"

Hart-ridge was silent for awhile.

"Nurse," he said presently, "do you—do you think she would see me before she goes?"

"Why?" asked the nurse bluntly.

"That's never allowed, Mr. Hart-ridge. She wasn't allowed to see you on the table—they threw a blanket over you. If you'll think a little you'll understand that that's the only thing possible."

"But if she wanted to—?" he faltered.

"Well, of course, in that case I suppose she could. But why do you want to see her?"

"Because," said Hart-ridge slowly, "I want to thank her for doing something that she never dreamed of. She looks on me, no doubt, as a poor man who has sold something which he possessed for money. There can be no thought of obligations on either side, of course. But I'm not going to take the money. I'm a fall-bird. I've just come out of the penitentiary where I served a year's sentence for forgery. She has given me back my self-respect. I feel that I've done some good in the world at last—I can't very well explain it, but I want to thank her. Won't you tell her at least?"

The nurse was looking at him very strangely. "Yes, I'll tell her," he heard her say, and he resigned himself to the feeling of intense weariness that was creeping over him.

Two days passed. Hart-ridge made no further reference to the fulfillment of his request. He did tell Dr. Briggs that he would not accept the money.

"There's a gentleman coming to see you this morning," the nurse announced triumphantly that day.

"A gentleman?" repeated Hart-ridge with a puzzled frown. "I don't know anyone. It must be a mistake. What is his name?"

But the nurse would not tell Hart-ridge his name. At twelve o'clock, however, the ward doors were thrown open to the stream of visitors who came to see the patients. Hart-ridge, who had been dozing, heard his name spoken and looked up. A man with very well remembered features was standing by his bed.

"Mr. Hart-ridge—my dear fellow—"

he began, somewhat nervously.

"Mr. Cumming!" gasped the man in the bed and bowed his head miserably.

The bank president sat down beside him and placed one hand on his shoulder.

"I want to tell you," he said, "that Dr. Briggs has spoken with me about you and made clear some things that I did not understand last year. If I had realized your circumstances I might have been less harsh in exacting justice. None of us can afford to exact that to the uttermost. They tell me you have refused compensation for your brave sacrifice. Hart-ridge, we are starting a branch bank at Clifton. I want you to go there as assistant cashier. Nobody will know of your past. That is all atoned for. You will go with our complete confidence—and at a salary adequate to support yourself and your wife comfortably."

"My wife?" said Hart-ridge bitterly. "Perhaps you don't know that—"

"Here's somebody come to see you and thank you for your—for her life," said the nurse, coming up softly. Hart-ridge glanced up. A woman came swiftly toward his bed and sank down beside him. She flung her arms round his neck and drew down his head to her breast and her tears, falling on him, washed his soul clean at last from all its bitter memories.

(Copyright, 1913, by W. G. Chapman.)

Return of the Sea Serpent.

Capt. Ruser, who is now commander of the Kaiserin Auguste Victoria and has been designated to command the colossal Imperator, says in his log of July 5, 1912 (as quoted in *Analgen der Hydrographie*), that at 6:30 a. m. of that day he, as well as his first officer and an Elbe pilot who was on board, saw a sea serpent in the water close alongside the ship, then off Prawle point. The creature was twenty feet long and appeared to be engaged in combat with some other marine animal, as it was lashing the sea violently with its tail. Its color was grayish blue on the back and whitish under the belly. The body was between a foot and a foot and a half in diameter. Capt. Ruser says that the whole length of the animal was visible, and there could be no mistake about its reptilian form.

NOTES from MEADOWBROOK FARM



Keep the sheep dry.

Keep the milk cans clean.

Alfalfa is a business crop.

Soil for onions should be sandy.

Eggs are a perishable food product.

As a soil enricher, vetch ranks close to the top.

Give the poultry the care and attention they deserve.

Skim milk is one of the best supplements to corn now known.

Don't miss the chicken shows with in reach. They are educators.

Colored butter need not be labeled if the coloring matter is not injurious.

Hens will not lay when permitted to run about the farm in the wet and cold.

If the cream is still warm after separating, don't put the lid on the can down tight.

Only in rare cases do cutworms bother crops that are planted on fall-plowed land.

A well-established alfalfa field should graze from fifteen to twenty pigs per acre.

Hens that are put out into the cold and snow are soon chilled out of the egg-laying notion.

It is quite common to sow buckwheat, especially on poor land, as a green manure crop.

Corn fodder that is dry and dusty will be improved a little by sprinkling in the mangers.

Feeding chicks when too young and too much at a time are fruitful sources of bowel trouble.

Pound for pound, vetch hay has almost exactly the same feeding value as cowpea hay and alfalfa.

Get catalogues of the best nursery and seed houses. Make careful selections for next year's planting.

Sheep dogs in England, Scotland and France are the most serious of animals, and are hard-working.

Good fruit can be raised only with care and attention given to spraying, pruning and generally good care.

Sweet sorghums are more palatable and therefore relished better by both horses and cattle than corn stover.

The dairy farmer should know what his milk costs him. This is just as important as knowing what it brings.

If sheep are in a good, thrifty condition at the start, two months of good feeding will properly fatten for market.

When some men get on the track of a dollar, they think of no other interest until they have tracked it to its lair.

Sudden fright and excitement at once tell on the egg crop. Never allow strange dogs about where the hens are.

There is hardly any question that there is as much in the care of the trees after planting as in the selection before.

Feeding troughs raised above the litter of the floor should be used if soft food is allowed to stand before the chickens.

No other class of animal so readily lends itself to the demands of a rural household for a supply of fresh meat as a young sheep.

Light framed birds that mature quickly, such as Leghorns and Minorcas, should not be kept with those of the heavier fowls.

Keep in mind the perishable nature of the product and do not hold eggs on a rising market without proper facilities for storing them.

Draft horses in the corn belt fed largely on corn and timothy, or corn stover, lack bone development, as is found in imported horses.

Have slop warm for hogs this cold weather, if possible. If it cannot be warmed do not feed it thin, but make it thick. Always slop them before feeding grain. Shorts make the best hog slop with oil meal second. Two-thirds shorts and one-third oil meal makes a slop hard to beat.

Whitewash the stables.

Keep the hens scratching.

Keep tools in their places.

Breeding and feeding go together.

Keep the nests clean and sanitary.

The big milker must be a big eater and drinker.

Blue or white spruce trees on the lawn are attractive now.

The ram should be in perfect condition, but not fat, at mating.

For a feed to push the young calf, try ground oats and alfalfa hay.

Use corn stalks to protect fruit trees from the ravages of rabbits.

Skimmilk, sweet or sour, can be made good use of by the chickens.

Good feeding is an integral part of success in breeding pure-bred swine.

Poor quality in dairy products can never be cured. It must be prevented.

Bare ground makes a cold bed for sows these nights. Straw is plentiful.

Animals grown largely or exclusively on corn are likely to have weak bones.

Watch your machinery for loose bolts and nuts, and don't forget the oil can.

Dairying isn't always easy work, but neither is any other job that really pays well.

No man can make a success of dairying who does not take good care of his calves.

Sheep, if given half a chance, and if of good healthy stock, are sure to pay their way.

Alfalfa under congenial surroundings or conditions is a business crop and no loafer.

A dozen eggs will buy almost a bushel of oats. And oats make a good winter feed for eggs.

Provide roomy nests and plenty of clean nesting material, preferably dry shavings or cut hay.

Do not attempt to raise more hogs than you can handle, else they will eat up all the profit.

Castrate every male lamb that will be an eyesore to yourself or do mischief to any purchaser.

One of the most essential things for good seed corn is not only to pick it early but to dry it thoroughly.

The cost of feeding an animal increases with its weight, but not in direct proportion to its weight.

What the dairy industry needs most is an improved breed of dairymen instead of a new breed of cows.

A brush or old whisk broom is handy to brush off loose hair and dirt from the udder before milking.

Plant diseases of an infectious character are caused by microscopic organisms, either fungous or bacterial.

Vetch stands out as one of the very best green manuring crops to seed in the fall and plow under in the spring.

The better your sire, the better your lambs, and so the more money you will get from your flock next year.

Occasionally winter vetch is seeded in the spring, but under such conditions it does not seem to do so very well.

While mutton is one of the most healthful of meat foods produced upon the farm it is not as popular as beef or pork.

Many of the details in butter making can be learned by doing the work. No one can begin where the other fellow left off.

Salt, hardwood ashes and charcoal are ideal to keep in hog pasture, and if there is any other one thing needed it is pure water.

The day of the country butter merchant who was in the habit of trading calico and nails for dairy butter is rapidly passing.

People who say that chicken keeping on the farm doesn't pay are usually those who do not pay attention to the chickens.

The male bird is the most important individual in a breeding pen through which to raise the egg laying qualities of young fowls.

Give the poultry-house a thorough cleaning every spring and keep it clean; spray often, and whitewash walls, roosts, etc., regularly.

Hatch the chickens early; keep them separate from the old stock and give them every possible opportunity to grow into strong, healthy, vigorous, well-matured birds before the cold weather comes, in the fall and early winter.

INVESTIGATION OF INFLUENCE OF TYPE AND AGE UPON UTILIZATION OF FEEDS

Results Given of Experiment Conducted by Officials of the United States Agricultural Department on Two Steer Calves, One a Pure-Bred and the Other a Scrub.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

It is a fact of common knowledge that marked differences exist between individual animals as regards the returns which they yield for the feed consumed. A current statement is that a good feeder has a greater digestive power than a poor one, or that the power of assimilation of the one animal is superior to that of the other and it has been assumed that the advantage of the better type of animal lay in its ability to produce more flesh or fat from a unit of feed than should the poorer one.

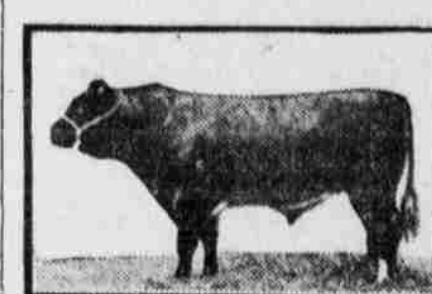
It has also been commonly taught, and seems to be generally accepted by the animal husbandmen as an established fact, that the young growing animals not only make actually larger gains than the more mature ones, but likewise more economical gains.

The influence of type and age upon the utilization of feed by cattle has, therefore, been investigated by officials of the department of agriculture, with the following result:

Two steer calves were selected as the subjects of this investigation, one a pure-bred typical beef animal of one of the well-known beef brands, the other a "scrub" of mixed breeding. Exhaustive feeding trials were carried out with these animals, including twenty-four experiments with the respiration calorimeter.

Finally the steers were subjected to a slaughter test, whereby the quality of the meat and relative size of the various cuts were accurately determined. The work is therefore important alike to the practical feeder and the agricultural scientist.

The feeding stuffs used were of the same kind for both the animals in all the periods, and the different grains used were mixed throughout in the



A Prize Shorthorn.

same proportion for each steer. At intervals during the time the digestibility of the total ration and the nitrogen balance were determined for each animal.

During each of the three winters covered by the investigation, four experiments were made on each animal by means of the respiration calorimeter in order to determine the percentage of availability of the energy of the feed consumed.

During the first winter—that of

PREPARING BED FOR ASPARAGUS

Best Time for Setting Plants Out Is in Early Spring, About End of April.

A good asparagus bed is expected to last twenty years. The soil should, therefore, be prepared in a most thorough manner.

A warm, sandy soil is best, but it will do well in any good garden soil that is free from stones. A soil that has been heavily manured a few previous seasons is preferable to manuring heavily at the time of setting out the roots, but at no period should asparagus be allowed to suffer from lack of manuring, as first-class shoots can only be grown in very rich soil.

For the home garden the plants may be set out in rows about thirty inches apart, having the plants about eighteen inches apart.

The best time for setting out asparagus is early in the spring, usually about the end of April. Where the rows are to be made furrows one foot wide and eight inches deep. In these furrows set the plants in a natural position with the roots spread well apart and about twelve to eighteen inches apart. Be careful to cover the crown of the plants not more than two inches in the start, as the shoots from newly set plants are not strong enough to force through a deep mass of earth. The furrow may be gradually filled as the shoots advance in growth.

The object of setting the crowns so far below the surface is to protect them from injury when cutting the shoots for use, as they are usually cut about two inches below the surface. Although growers differ in their opinions on what the age of plants for setting should be, one-year-old plants seem to give the best satisfaction.

Watering Milk.

In many parts of Europe the watering of milk is impossible because the cows or goats are driven through the streets to the door of the customer and milked in his presence. The milkman has different measures, ranging in size from an eighth of a pint to a quart, and one can buy one cent's worth of milk if desired.

1908-9—the feeding stuffs used differed from those employed during the ordinary feeding. In the succeeding two winters the grain feeds used were the same, only the amount differing.

While the results fail to show any material difference between the physiological processes of food utilization in the two animals, they do show clearly an economic superiority of the pure-bred over the scrub steer, due first to his relatively smaller maintenance requirement, and, second, to his ability to consume a larger surplus of feed above the requirement.

Both of the facts tend to make the actual production of human food in the form of meat and fat per unit of



Feeding Steers.

total feed consumed by the animal, notably greater by the pure-bred animal.

In the case of the pure-bred animal especially, and to a lesser degree in that of the scrub, rations containing less available energy and notably less digestible protein than the amounts called for by the current feeding standards for growing cattle, produced entirely satisfactory gains in live weight.

A distinct influence of age upon the maintenance requirement was observed between the ages of fourteen and thirty-nine months, the requirements decreasing relatively as the animals matured. The gain in weight of the scrub as compared with that by the pure-bred steer consisted more largely of protein with its accompanying water and to a smaller extent of fat, and therefore, represented a materially smaller storage of feed energy. This was also indicated by the results of the butchering test. When the animals were killed the scrub was rated as "common," and the pure-bred was graded as "prime." The total dressed weight and the weight of the several wholesale cuts show the considerably higher percentage of dressed weight in the case of the pure-bred, which is characteristic of the beef animal.

Likewise the predominance of the loin cuts over the less valuable cuts of the fore-quarter in the beef animal as compared with the scrub, and the marketable meat of the retail cuts show that the proportion of more valuable cuts was notably greater in the pure-bred.

Overcrowding is direct cause of Many Losses—Outdoor Exercise Needed.

BREEDING EWES DURING WINTER

Weak, emaciated ewes cannot bring vigorous, well-developed lambs in the spring. It is imperative to have the ewe flock in good condition during the winter, so that they may bring good, robust lambs and supply them with plenty of nourishment.

Overcrowding the ewe flock during winter is direct cause of many losses. It not only causes ewes to become sluggish and dull, but frequently it raises the temperature of the barn and causes the ewes to perspire, and when they are turned out in the yards they develop colds with the result of catarrh.

If possible they should be kept in flocks of twenty to forty ewes. In this way there will be less danger of crowding, and they will exercise freely. Breeding ewes should have exercise, and every day when the weather is fine they should be allowed to roam over the yards and pastures. Out of door exercise and plenty of pasture will insure a crop of thrifty and well-developed lambs next spring.

Dairymen's Associations. Dairymen's associations can do much through its membership to stimulate better methods on dairy farms, and if the factory men would stand shoulder to shoulder and refuse to take milk that was unclean, or that had to be cooked before it could be used for food, dairymen would realize the usefulness of following such methods as some of them are following today, and in a few years dirty milk would be a thing of the past, and every dairyman would be a better dairyman than he is now, because the better dairyman a man is the greater would be his income.

Use of Lime. The old proverb in agriculture was that lime makes the father rich, but the sons poor. That might be paraphrased to say the lack of lime makes the father poor and his sons poorer. The intelligent use of lime does not make anyone poor; it is the abuse of lime that might make the sons poor.