

NEWS for the YOUNG PEOPLE

THE FATE OF SMARTY SOL-BEAR

By CALEB B. WHITFORD.

"Hello, there, little bear, you appear to be working mighty hard for your supper. Excuse me for calling you little bear, you was all humped up so catching bugs you looked like a little bear, but when you come to straighten up I see you're a middle-size bear, almost as big as I am. But tell me, what's your name?"

"My Daddy calls me Billy Bear because he says I'm always busy hunting like Old Billy the hunter was who used to live and hunt in this bottom."

"I might as well tell you my name. My Dad calls me Sol, because he says I am a very wise bear. Old Solomon. Dad says, was the wisest man in the world."

"Well, Mr. Solomon—" "Don't call me Solomon. Call me Sol. It's more friendly like." "All right, Sol. I was going to tell you that my Daddy is one of the wisest bears in this canebroke bottom, although he don't pretend to know very much, and he always told me not to get too friendly with bears that pretend to be so wise."

"Surely you're not afraid to have a chat with a sociable bear like me? I've seen more of the world than you have and can tell you a lot of things worth knowing. For instance, here you are working yourself almost to death to get a poor meal of bugs and nuts and berries."

"Yes, it's pretty hard work," said Billy. "But my Daddy has lived to a good old age in this bottom here, and he often told me that the only safe way is to work hard for a living."

"Ha! Ha! Ha!" laughed Sol. "You talk like a little baby bear. Why, Billy, your father is old and never learned the tricks some of us young bears have learned. If you keep on like you are doing now you'll be a poor, lean, half-starved bear working all night and never knowing what it is to have a good meal. Look at me! I'm rolling fat, and yet I don't work as hard as you do. Just feel my sides."

Thousands of Bees Were Stinging Him.

"I declare," said Sol, "I am so fat and full of good things it really tires me to walk, so I'll just bid you good night and hunt up a nice bed here in the canebroke."

"I told you," said Sol, "I was a wise bear. I work with my head, thinking about schemes to get a good living without much labor. "When I am out in the woods and see a little bee flying along as fast as he can go on a straight line, I know he is going home with a load of honey. I get his course and follow along after him. Pretty soon another bee will come flying along in the same direction, going home with his load of honey, and so I keep following the bees until I come to the honey tree where the bees live. This tree we are going to now I found yesterday while I was taking a little walk through the woods."

"I'll go up there," said Billy. "That's easy for me."

And Sol put his paw to his mouth and chuckled, because he never had any notion of going up that tree.

"Just put your paw in the hole, Billy, pull out the honeycomb and then come down and have the sweetest supper you ever had in your life."

Billy was up to the hole in a few moments, peering in and licking his chops. Sol sat back in the bushes laughing. He laughed so hard the tears came to his eyes. Just as he looked up, Billy put his paw in the hole and pulled out a great chunk of honey. At the same time poor Billy put up the awfulest howl ever heard from a bear!

Thousands of bees were all over him, peppering him with their sharp little stings! When he opened his mouth to say "Oof! oof!" the bees stung him on the tongue.

All this time he was backing down the tree as fast as he could, and all the time the busy little bees were stinging him with their little stingers that were as hot as fire. Billy uttered every sort of growl and screamed and snarl that a bear ever thought of, while he was hurrying down the tree and finally tumbled to the ground with a hard bump. He pawed the air and jumped about, shaking his head and howling, all to no purpose. Then he started to run. He went through the woods rolling like a big black ball, and he never stopped running and screaming until he got to the river.

In he plunged and under the water he went. After a while he came out, puffing and tried to find a soft place on the bank where he could lie down and rest. But no matter what side he tried to lie on there were a lot of sore spots. So he concluded to stand up and rest.

He certainly was a poor, dejected-looking bear. His lips were badly swollen, one eye was closed and the other half shut. All over his body were sore spots that felt as though they had been made of hundreds of sharp wires. All this time Sol was filling himself with the delicious honey that Billy had thrown to the ground.

"It's too bad," he said, "to laugh at that Billy Bear, but I can't help it. It was a funny. Anyway, just to show him I am not altogether bad, I'll take a nice chunk of this honeycomb and go and find him."

And what a woe-begone-looking bear he saw when he came upon Billy! He tried to sympathize with the poor afflicted bear and explain how sorry he was to have permitted an inexperienced friend to tackle such a difficult job.

"Next time I'll show you how to do it without getting you into such trouble," he said.

"Never mind," said Billy, "there'll be no next time. When I want to learn how to get honey out of a tree, I'll have my good old Daddy show me."

"Here's a nice chunk of honey I've brought you," said Sol, "eat that and you'll feel better."

"No, thank you, Mr. Solomon. You eat your honey, I'll go back to my old job hunting bugs and nuts and berries. Maybe this kind of food isn't as sweet or as fattening as your lamb and honey, but there are no stings in it."

And Billy started off for home and Sol went along with him for a short distance.

"I declare," said Sol, "I am so fat and full of good things it really tires me to walk, so I'll just bid you good night and hunt up a nice bed here in the canebroke."

Billy didn't even say good-night, but kept on until he got home. Old Daddy bear did not scold him, just laughed at him.

"Maybe," said he, "some of these smart young bears have got a way of living without work. But I notice all the bears in this bottom that live to a good old age, go right along, tending to their own business like a bear ought to do, and the smart—" "Listen! I hear the hounds! Let's cut across the fringe of cane and get on the other side of the river! It's a good thing we are not too fat, and can outrun the hounds!"

On came the hounds through the woods at full cry and at a fast pace! Crossing the river, old Daddy bear and Billy Bear took a seat on a piece of high ground.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



Named your farm yet?

Clover is a cleansing crop.

Get sunlight into the dairy barn.

Grain raising depletes fertility of the soil.

Never throw soft feed on the ground.

Sorghum makes a good material for filling the silo.

Dirty pails cause much sickness among the calves.

If you want your cows to do well make them comfortable.

Bright clover or alfalfa hay should be kept in a convenient rack.

Remember that the swine family are not protected by furry coats.

It is generally estimated that broilers shrink one-half pound each when dressed.

Are the mice or rabbits girdling the trees? Remove rubbish and wrap the trunks in paper.

Get your spraying equipment in good order several days before you must begin spraying.

The cream separator should be firmly fixed on a solid base if good work is expected of it.

The average yearly butter fat production per cow in the United States in 1900 was 145 pounds.

Salt the hogs as often as you do the other stock. They will be healthier and digest their food better.

It is almost impossible to crowd the young pigs too fast, provided you have the right kind of food and care.

Some people have gone so far as to claim that the corn stalks in the silo are worth as much as the ears in the crib.

Wash and dry the cows before milking and keep 94 per cent. of the dirt out of the milk that usually gets in otherwise.

The garden should be well fertilized in the fall or winter. This makes it possible to work it more quickly when spring comes.

The dairy farmer ought to have pigs for market every year. This is the best way to sell the by-products at the top price.

One reason why pure bred sires are so necessary on the farm is because defects are just as easily transmitted as good points.

The heifer that is to be retained in the herd should be handled from her early calfhood so that she will have confidence in her keeper.

It is well to order a few catalogues from the reliable seed and nursery companies. They are educators even if we are not intending to buy.

See that the hens have all the pure water they can drink at all times. If you have skim milk to spare, that also can be placed before them constantly.

Keeping any machine well oiled and in proper repair not only increases efficiency, but decreases the amount of power required to run the machine.

The milk pail is always more nearly full when pasture is at its prime than during any other season, and the silo will produce the same conditions in the winter.

The manure spreader and systematic crop rotation form the two strongest links in the chain for the maintenance of soil fertility and heavy crop production.

The ideal cow! Everybody's looking for her, but few find her, though she is the most valuable asset on the farm. How many possible ideal cows are done into real in this country every year nobody knows.

Too much care cannot be exercised by breeders in sending out eggs for hatching. A good way is to wrap each egg in paper separately and place them in a basket, doubly lined with newspaper and packed with excelsior.

For poultry food, pea meal will be found nutritious, rice easily digested, linseed meal cathartic, potato starch digestible, barley nutritious but laxative, and oatmeal more nutritious than either wheat or barley. There is fully 5% per cent. of fat in oatmeal. Corn contains from 7 to 8 per cent. of yellow fat.

Flowers beautify a yard.

Try poultry and fruit together.

Test seed corn before planting.

Oyster shells are too soft for grit.

Dairying develops fertility of the soil.

Don't give the sow too much bedding.

In feeding grain in the runs broadcast it.

Rye and vetch will make a fair grade of silage.

What is known as a yearling hen is one having laid 12 months.

Better seed grain means better crops at no increased expense.

Soaking the churn in brine will occasionally help to keep it sweet.

Half the crop of corn can be turned into five-sixths of a crop by saving the fodder.

A reader recommends powdered charcoal given in the milk as a remedy for scours.

Alfalfa hay and corn balance each other. In addition they are the best relished of any feeds.

Sometimes a week's chill rains or cold weather will set the pigs back a month in their growth.

Indigestion and liver trouble in fowls are paraded under the name of cholera very frequently.

The co-operative creamery that is well patronized and well supported is a blessing to any community.

It does not pay to hold old hogs in order to get great weight if you have younger ones to eat the corn.

Don't let the pigs get lousy. Spray them with kerosene emulsion, while eating, once every two weeks.

When spraying do not work with bare hands. They'll be sore if you do. Put on a pair of rubber gloves.

Are the horses coming up in flesh, and are they getting a little harness work to condition their shoulders?

A feed of chopped onions occasionally will be greatly relished by the fowls as well as conducive to their health.

Hogs that are fat should not be held, but sent to market when fit. There is no profit in killing a hog until it is fit.

For the man who still has not a silo: Build one, and if you can't fill it until next fall, feed molasses crops this coming summer.

If you have never tried rape, raise a small field next spring. It is very popular with hogs, and does them a world of good.

Better not get reckless with the feed yet. It is easily possible that there still are eight to ten weeks of bad weather on the way.

One fatal mistake made at the end of the hatch is to keep the door of the incubator open too long after the eggs have begun to pip.

The critical period of the turkey is the first eight weeks of its life. About forty-eight eggs is the average yearly record of the hen.

Are the young pigs to be allowed to shiver and freeze in the cold, damp winds of early spring? And die at the rate of one to five out of every ten?

One acre of corn well grown and put in the silo will furnish more feed for the cows than can be obtained by any other manner of handling the soil.

The farmer who has never used a fanning mill should get one as soon as possible so as to get well acquainted with it before the busy season comes.

Turkey culture is a success only where the stock can have a good range. There is too much wild nature in turkeys for them to thrive in confined quarters.

The fruit tree agent is not all bad. But for him a good many orchards would not now be growing and doing well. But it is well to know the standing of his company before ordering.

Most of those who run the dairy at a loss never read literature on the subject. The losses are largely due to this fault, for it is certain that there is no longer any use of maintaining any farm animal at a loss.

It is advisable to increase the quantity of corn in the night feed, as the nights are growing colder and extra fuel is needed. Corn digests slowly, and, being of a heating nature, adds wonderfully to the comfort of the fowls.

Leg weakness in chicks is often due to the food being of a fattening nature, and the bodies in consequence become too heavy for the muscular strength of the chick's legs. There should be bran in the soft food that is fed, it being one of the best bone and muscle foods that could be given.

PREREQUISITES ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO SUCCESS IN PRODUCTION OF LAMBS.

One of First Essentials is to Secure Strong, Uniform Ewe Flock—Should Be Rugged in Constitution, Active Foragers, Regular Breeders, Good Milkers and Shearers.



Profitable Mutton and Wool Flock.

(By PROF. W. C. COFFEY, University of Illinois.)

Mutton production has become largely a question of furnishing lambs for the market. The buyers at Chicago Union stock yards assert that about 80 per cent. of all the sheep reaching that place are lambs. While the very nature of things assures us there always will be mature sheep sold as mutton, we are constrained to believe that in the future the demand for lamb mutton will be even stronger than it is today. It is surely true that the demand for lamb mutton of the higher grade will become greater if our people keep up their present pace in learning to consume mutton, because their tastes will become educated to discriminate closely between ordinary and choice mutton products. It is within the possibilities of the native grower to produce choice lambs for the market but there are certain prerequisites absolutely necessary to success in this work, and also some besetting sins of which our native producers are guilty, which must be abandoned before we can do it.

Every one who doubtless agrees that the strong, vigorous, rapidly growing lamb is more profitable to the producer than his weak constitutioned, backward brother. And hence, to get at the profitable production of lambs we must search out the essentials necessary to the production of the former sort. One of the first things to seek is a strong, uniform ewe flock—ewes that are strong in constitution, active foragers, uniform and regular breeders, deep milkers and good shearers.

It requires a ewe with strong well developed vital organs to bring forth a lamb with enough vitality to battle for life should conditions be reversed, and it is enough to discourage a shepherd if, at the lamb's birth, both the lamb and the ewe are indifferent about coming together and living together courageously. The ewe is not worth much if she has not the ability to care for her lamb well. To secure the desirable bloom on the lamb, which is characterized by baby fat and plumpness, requires a liberal supply of milk from the mother, and this is hardly possible if she is not robust and an eager feeder. Therefore, the things of first importance in selecting the ewe flock are robustness and strength of constitution.

Most native sheep growers are open to criticism in that they do not select the ewes that are uniform and regular breeders. Observations have led me to believe that few have given these things due regard. Most of us prefer a lot of ewes uniform in appearance, and it is commendable in us that we do, but this is not all, because we must seek those ewes that will all lamb at about the same time.

SEASONABLE WORK IN THE POTATO GARDEN

Experiment With Poultry Manure and Superphosphate Favors the Former.

(By A. J. LEGG.) Last spring I put a small handful of dry poultry manure in each hill I planted my potatoes except four pieces of rows.

On these I used a 14% superphosphate in the hill at the rate of about 250 pounds per acre.

I noticed throughout the growing season that the potatoes manured with poultry manure were growing much faster than the others. The soil was just about the same in both places, as was the cultivation.

When the potatoes reached maturity I dug 24 hills of each of two rows lying adjacent to each other. One was fertilized with poultry manure and the other with superphosphate. The potatoes from each 24 hills were carefully weighed with the following results:

Twenty-four hills with superphosphate yielded 29.5 pounds.

Twenty-four hills with poultry manure yielded 35.75 pounds.

Difference in favor of poultry manure 15.25 pounds.

The variety of potatoes planted was common No. 1. All of the potatoes were practically free from scab as I only noticed one scabby potato and it was found among the ones grown with poultry manure.

Poultry Profits.

A poultry raiser's profits do not come from the number of chickens he hatches, but the number raised to maturity

LITTLE SONGSTERS ARE EARLY RISERS

Lark Does Not Deserve Reputation for Getting Out Early—Is a Sluggard.

A student of bird life, who has been investigating the question as to the hour in summer when the commonest small birds wake up and begin to sing, says that the greenfinch is the earliest riser, as it sings about one-thirty o'clock in the morning. The blackcap begins at two-thirty and the quail half an hour later.

It is nearly four o'clock, and the sun is well up, before the first real songster appears—the merry blackbird. Then comes the thrush, followed by the robin and the wren; and last, the house sparrow and the tomtit.

Thus it will be seen that the lark's reputation as an early riser is not deserved. In fact, he is a very sluggard, for he does not rise until long after many hedgerow birds have been about for some time.

To Choose Fruit Varieties.

First know what the fruit is to be used for, then learn what kinds that meet that demand do best in the neighborhood. It will pay to be deliberate in this choice and to confine the list to less than half a dozen kinds if market is the aim.

Labor on Orchards.

There are few who appreciate the amount of labor and money necessary in developing and maintaining an orchard of 100 or 150 acres, to say nothing of the experience and executive ability necessary in handling such large crops.