

DAIRY AND POULTRY.

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How Successful Farmers Operate This Department of the Farm—A Few Hints as to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.

MRS. A. L. SMITH, Gibson county, Indiana.—I have had considerable experience with the fault mentioned above. I have tried a number of remedies, but have found nothing so effective as changing them to new quarters, and watching them closely for a few days, getting each egg as it is laid. Several years ago I broke a fine lot of Black Langshans of this habit. This year I had a lot of White Javas that got the habit and I broke them in the same way. The cause is chiefly confinement in close runs. I had to shut up my fowls for several days in the house and that is where they learned the habit. I put them into a new run and gathered the eggs as fast as they were laid for a few days and the habit was soon broken up. When I have a hen that is sitting and brings off an egg every time she comes from the nest I cover up her sitting place and take her out and feed and water her every morning, giving her meat scraps if I have any. I do this for several mornings and after that I have no trouble. I practice taking off my hens, feeding them, and putting them back on the nest, covering the eggs with a warm cloth while the hens are off. I use incubators but usually have some hens sitting toward the end of the season. I had one egg eater this season, but soon broke her as above. Hens will not eat eggs if they have proper animal food. A morbid appetite is the cause. If I should find one that could not be broken by the treatment that I have mentioned I would take her off the eggs for a few days and put another hen on them (as I generally have supernumeraries) and give the egg eater a few china eggs to practice on. She would forget her old habit in a few days. One way that hens learn to eat eggs is by having too many hens laying in the same nest. Some of the eggs are broken, and in this way the habit is begun. Whole eggs or half egg shells thrown to them will teach them to break eggs; that was the way my Langshans learned the trick and my Javas learned it by being kept shut up where they were idle. Now when I feed egg shells I always crush them. I now have about 400 chicks. Of the older broods there will weigh eight pounds. The next brood are three weeks younger, and I have two other broods (incubator) at intervals of three weeks in age. The four broods consist of White Javas, White Cochins, White Langshans, and White Plymouth Rocks with a few half-breed Javas with the latter birds.

Ruben G. Porter, Emmet county, Michigan.—I have had some trouble with hens eating their eggs in the nests where they were laid, but none eating them when they were sitting on them. Make the nests in kegs and the hens cannot get at them and will soon stop the habit.

F. J. Marshall, Butler county, Ohio.—Yes, I have had some experience with the egg eaters. It is a pernicious habit and hard to break up if several get at it at the same time. The best way then is to make a nest slanting so that the egg will roll out of the reach and sight of the hen as soon as it is laid. Care should be taken that the construction of the nest is such that the eggs will not be broken as they roll away. Confined hens are most apt to contract this habit. I have also had hens that were sitting eat their eggs. They would bring off an egg with them every time they came off to eat and keep up the habit till the eggs were all gone. Such hens usually break an egg when getting on the nest and then take it out with them next time they go to feed. I never could remedy this to my satisfaction. Nests for sitters should not be deep at point of entrance as that condition is most likely to result in broken eggs. I think that if they did not get an egg broken at first they would not carry them off, but the smeared eggs make them worse. Whenever an egg has been broken and the other egg smeared they should be at once washed in lukewarm water and the nests made dark, if possible.

Dehorning Calves. Cattle ought not to have horns. We all believe that today. It is best to breed them off. There are as good animals of the beef breeds that are polled as that have horns. It is time that horns were bred off the milk breeds. Next best is to prevent the horns starting on the calf. It is not five minutes' time, nor one cent's expense, to do it. I have dehorned many and never failed or made a sore head. After using patented fluids and caustic potash, I now use common concentrated lye, such as the women use for breaking water and making soap. When the calf is less than ten days old is the right time. Simply wet the bump where you expect the horn and rub on as much powdered lye as will equal three grains of corn. Do not wet elsewhere. Let the calf alone thereafter. The scabs will come off and the hair will grow out as nicely as on a natural poll. I do not see that the fighting or butting habit is developed in these dehorned calves. A Jersey bull four years old would have killed my brother had he had horns. He got him down in the pasture and no one was near to help. A shepherd dog came to the rescue. I ask Dr.

Smead if it is possible to produce polls by dehorning in this way? It is against scientific teaching if I mistake not, yet I had a heifer, a thoroughbred Shorthorn as I thought, having raised her, that had been dehorned at calf-hood and breeding her to our St. Lambert bull, also dehorned when a calf, the result is a perfect poll. I am sure of these facts, yet they upset my theories of heredity somewhat.—Joseph E. Wing.

I can dehorn 100 calves for 10 cents. That sounds big, but it is true. I take the calf from three to five days old and use concentrated lye, a 10-cent box. I take a pair of shears, clip the hair over the nub about the size of a nickel, dampen, but not enough to run down the side of the head, put what will lay on point of knife on nub and rub a little with finger and the job is done. It will form a scab, which will come off itself. I have never had a miss yet. I think it very cruel to cut off the horns. I saw one cow faint away after cutting off her horns.—A. P. J. in National Stockman.

Oleo in France. The French chamber of deputies has passed a very stringent measure by which it is made illegal for dealers in butter to keep oleo for sale, or vice versa; the fraudulent compositions are only to be sold at places especially designed by the municipality of each town. Moreover, all boxes, firkins, or other packages containing oleo, must bear the word "margarine" in large characters, and a full description must be given of the elements employed in making the composition. In the retail trade all oleo must be placed in bags, on the outside of which are to be found a description of the article with the name and address of the vendor. Full authority is given to the inspectors to enter butter factories and shops, and take specimens for analysis; in the event of the specimens being found pure the cost will be borne by the state. The penalties for an infraction of the new law will vary from six days' to three months' imprisonment, and a fine of \$20 to \$1,000, while in the event of the same person being convicted a second time within a year, the maximum fine will also be imposed. There will also be a heavy fine imposed on persons who place hindrance in the way of the inspectors.

Judicious Feeding of Cattle. In an address, E. P. Lee said: "If we would be successful breeders of cattle, we should give to our cows an abundant supply of healthful food, proper shelter and exercise; then select the best bull we can afford to purchase, for crossing with them; and when this is accomplished, we have employed more or less imperfectly all the processes under which the domestic animals of the same species develop into breeds. Good food, or the lack of it, exercise in moderation or excess, shelter or exposure, and selection or carelessness in crossing, these make up the sum total of the influences which modify constantly, for better or for worse, our horses and cattle, hogs and sheep. The form, constitution, and temper of every domestic animal is, aside from the characteristics of the species, the effect of the interplay of these causes. Judicious feeding, careful treatment in shelter and exercise, and skillful selection for coupling, are the key notes to the breeder's art. If one of these be lacking, breeding is nearly a failure. If all are defective, the animals that result are well nigh worthless. We must be careful in regard to mating. The breeder should notice the defects of the female he wishes to breed, and couple her with a male as nearly perfect as possible; and especially strong in the point where she is weak, and by so doing for a few generations, we shall have arrived at nearly perfection.

Sheep. The history of sheep husbandry dates back to almost as remote a period as that of man, and from that time to the present, has justly occupied a prominent position in the commerce of all civilized nations of the world, being a source of luxury, ornament and profit, and when John Randolph of Roanoke publicly proclaimed that he would at any time go a mile out of his way to kick a sheep, he virtually asserted that it would be a luxury to abuse his best friend. I do not propose in this brief essay to give the origin or history of the various families or kinds of sheep, but will view the subject as it exists in our country at the present time, as a branch of mixed husbandry. That a flock of sheep is a necessity on the farm I unhesitatingly assert. As laborers in the field they are industrious and thorough, feeding upon briars and many other species of vegetable vermin, consuming much of all kinds of forage, both in summer and winter, that is rejected by other stock and converting it into and distributing over the field a more valuable fertilizer than it would be in a crude state.—C. C. Morton.

Feeding Vetch Hay. As a preliminary report for the purpose of answering some questions regarding the feeding of vetch hay, I present a brief summary of results of our experience in feeding this material. We have fed the vetch hay to fattening steers, and to cows giving milk, and in both cases the results have been very satisfactory. It was compared with clover hay in both instances. The steers made good gains when receiving vetch hay as the only dry food, except the grain. Two steers were fed 42 days on the vetch hay, and gained 3.07 pounds and 2.07 pounds respectively, per day. Those fed on clover hay gained 2.16 pounds and 2.56 pounds respectively. The vetch when properly cured is relished by all kinds of stock. It must

not stand until too ripe before cutting. When fed to milch cows the flow of milk and per cent of butter fat was maintained throughout the test, which extended over a period of 45 days. As a cheap substitute for clover hay the vetch seems to answer the demand very satisfactorily. It is an annual, consequently must be sown every year. In this respect it can not be compared with clover. As a fertilizing crop, it is not as good as clover for it does not root as deeply, nor loosen the soil as completely as clover.—H. T. French, Oregon Experiment Station.

Egg Eating Hens. I have had some hens eat their eggs where laid, but find that it almost always occurs in midwinter or early spring when the birds are short of grit. It generally commences by laying soft shelled eggs or laying off the roots at night, when they have an opportunity to roll the eggs around and peck at them. When the spring is fairly on and the laying season in full swing, I have never been bothered except by an occasional case, and if I can detect that hen off goes her head. My sitting hens never bother me by eating the eggs set under them, unless I happen to put in an egg that has a very soft shell and it gets broken in the nest, or in some case where the nest is made in such a manner that the hen has to drop into it from too great height, and thus accidentally break an egg. But those accidents I usually guard against after one experience. As to treatment, if it is an isolated case of egg eating and I can find the hen I chop her head off. But if in early spring or in the winter a mania seems to seize them for egg eating I scatter china nest eggs on the floor and in the nests, and keep all eggs picked up as fast as they are laid for a few days and find no difficulty in stopping the habit in this way. Joseph Murphy, Delta County, Michigan.

Medium Hogs for Market.—Drovers' Journal: Big corn means big hogs. Big hogs means lots of lard, big hams and big pork, which is now, and is liable to remain a heavy drug on the market. The January flurry in the prices of hogs and provisions made everybody feel bullish, and the consequence was farmers and feeders held their hogs long after they ought to have been shipped. While cellars and storehouses have been crowded with heavy, fat stuff that nobody seemed to want, packers say they cannot possibly supply the demand for bacon and cuts of pork made from light hogs at prices considerably above board of trade quotations. There is nothing like supplying the demand with what it wants, and holding already heavy hogs to simply store more cheap corn into them is folly. Better sell the hogs when they are at the most desirable weights and save the corn, which will soon be in handy.

Silos.—Prof. Georgeron at the Kansas Dairy association convention said: "I would like to indorse the question of silos. We have had fifty-six head of cattle, which we wintered last year, and they were wintered for six months on the corn that was raised on twenty acres or a little less; all put in the silo. They were fed an average of forty pounds of ensilage per day. We began feeding it the latter part of October and it lasted until the middle of May. They got nothing else except a little corn stalks fed in the daytime. It kept them in good condition. The Shortorns and those cows which we did not care to feed for milk did not get a grain of anything else."

New York Milk.—Mr. Van Valkenburg, assistant commissioner of agriculture for New York, said to a reporter for The World, in relation to milk as the farmers send it in: "About four cans in one hundred show adulteration. They show an average of about 10 per cent of adulteration by watering or skimming. This represents only about sixteen quarts of water added to 4,000 quarts of milk. I claim that there are no two cities in the United States that are supplied with milk so nearly up to the standard made by the state legislature of New York as in New York and Brooklyn."

Fast-Walking Farm Horses.—Any good breed of trotting horses, or any horse which has thoroughbred blood in its veins, can by practice be made to walk fast. No common-bred animal can be made a fast walker. A fast walker is made by careful exercise in that gait and it is a delightful one for a traveler if his steed walks four or five miles an hour. It is also very important to the farmer to have a fast walking team; but it depends much on the rider or driver whether a horse ever attains this highly esteemed quality.—Farm and Home.

Danger in Holding Stock.—The farmer who "holds for a rise" does not always get it. He loses a double interest, for the farmer who has money in hand can save twice the legal interest by buying all his needed winter supplies in bulk and by paying cash for them. After stock is ready for market there is a probability that the added cost of feeding will offset any increase in value.

Air Space for Cows.—The department of animal industry considers that each cow should have at least 600 cubic feet of air space.

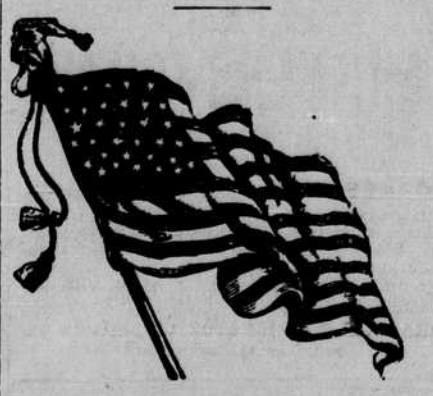
A diet of fruit and milk, it is said, will reduce flesh at the rate of five pounds a week.

It has been found impossible to build a lighthouse on Diamond Shoal, off Hatteras, but the government will put in a lightship at once, and she will be the strongest ever made.

ABOUT ARMOR PLATE.

FACTS REGARDING ITS COST—SOME RECENT CONTRACTS.

The "Invasion of Their Territory" Declared in Europe—New Orders Placed by the Russian Government—American Armor Plate Best in the World.

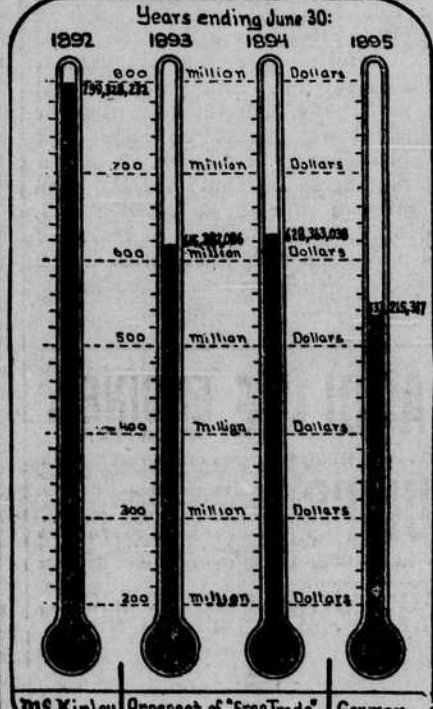


Some Oregon papers have published a few careless errors regarding the cost of armor plate, errors that are the result of insufficient acquaintance with, or inquiry into, the subject. The reflections upon the contracts entered into by the democratic secretary of the navy, Mr. Herbert, are equally as unfounded as those upon the policy of protection, which has alone enabled us to supply armor plate second to none in the world for use in the construction of American vessels. The importance of this American independence has been fully appreciated by democrats and republicans alike. The construction of the plant was expensive, and the administrations of both political parties have deemed it to be the duty of our government to encourage the establishment of industries of such high national importance. From one of the Oregon papers we quote as follows:

The Bethlehem company was the lowest bidder for the "Kentucky," and the Carnegie company for the "Kearsarge" armor. The prices per ton ranged from \$515 to \$628. From this it is apparent that there was collusion in the bidding. The Carnegies got one ship and the Bethlehem works the other. The law that keeps out foreign competition is responsible for this robbery of the people. The Portland Oregonian in mentioning this matter says: "It was developed by the recent investigation that it costs about \$300 per ton to make armor. Bids for the 'Kearsarge' and 'Kentucky' armor range from \$500 to \$600. There are only two companies, and each one got one ship. One of these concerns sells armor to Russia for about \$300 per ton. It might be well for us to invite bids from France, Germany and Great Britain."

This is a distortion of the facts, and evidently for the sole purpose of misleading the public. With a difference of \$113 per ton in the price it is direct proof that there was not "collusion in

Agricultural Products of the United States, Marketed in Foreign Countries.



The Kinley Prospect of "Free Trade" Gorman "Capturing the Markets of the World."

the bidding." Each company bid lower than the other on certain classes of armor for which its respective shops are better fitted for doing certain classes of work. A close figuring, moreover, between the two plants proves the effect of competition and shows that the government is not paying any exorbitant price for the work.

This armor has been awarded by the honorable secretary of the navy, 3,607 tons to the Carnegie company and 2,653 tons to the Bethlehem company. He did not give the armor for one ship to each company, as stated. The average price of this armor was \$52 per ton below the price of the 1893 contract, and the average price only \$497 per ton, not including the cost for Harveizing. Any person who had taken the trouble to analyze the tenders and the award would have seen at a glance that there could not possibly have been any collusion between the two companies.

In regard to the small lot of armor plate sold to the Russian government at about \$300 per ton by the Bethlehem company, it is well known that this was considerably below the cost of production. The sale was made for two purposes. One of these was to keep the American plant busy and afford work to skilled American labor, even at a loss to the employers, as is often done by manufacturers. The other reason was to let Russia and all Europe know that the United States could furnish armor plate of a quality that would compare favorably with the best in the world. This object was certainly achieved, for European manufacturers very strongly resented what

they were pleased to term the "invasion of their territory" by American concerns. To "capture the markets of the world" was supposed to be the main object of the democratic tariff; therefore it is difficult to discern the reason for the carping western criticism.

Ample proof that the sale to Russia, at about \$300 per ton, was far below cost has since been afforded by the evidence before the senate investigating committee. Since then orders have been given by the Russian government to the Bethlehem and Carnegie companies at prices ranging from \$525.58 to \$535.32 per ton. No country in the world demands such severe requirements for armor as the United States government, and, even taking this into consideration, the prices being paid at present for armor by the United States government are no higher than those paid by the admiralities of France, Germany and Great Britain. If the ballistic requirements were also taken into consideration, the price of armor in America is in reality lower than in England and on the European continent.

The "Rebuke"



A vote for Grover Cleveland is a vote against a tariff for bounties and to rebuke the conversion of a surplus into a deficiency.—New York World, November 7, 1892.

That Sugar Bounty Hold Up.

At last the democratic administration is forced to execute the laws of the country after months of deliberate and dishonest attempts to cheat the American sugar producers. No such disgraceful effort to tamper with national legislation has ever been witnessed. Evasions, shiftiness, quibbles, humbug and hypocrisy have been the marked characteristics of this piece of democratic financial jugglery which has wrought ruin and hardship, principally, to democrats in a democratic state. With the sole object of attempting to bolster up the depleted treasury, the democratic administration has resorted to unparalleled meanness and subterfuge, but it is at last forced to play the part of honesty by order of the Supreme court. Even when this proper act of justice has been discharged, the recipients of the bounty will be injured far more than the amount of money that they receive. We congratulate the sugar producers upon the success of their long and hard fight against a dishonest democratic administration. A word of praise is due to Senator Manderson for his efforts on their behalf, while odium will ever be attached to the two Louisiana senators who could, nearly two years ago, had they wished, have prevented all this trouble by preventing the enactment of a tariff devised to ruin the American sugar producing interest.

That "Prosperity" Again.

Many cotton mills have stopped, and many more have reduced hours or looms, and yet the market for goods is lifeless, a reduction of indigo blue prints of half a cent to 4 cents, the lowest on record, being the chief feature. Failures for three weeks of May show liabilities of \$9,503,468, against \$7,455,244 last year, and \$7,782,533 in 1891. Manufacturing were \$3,383,590, against \$2,642,609 last year, and \$3,389,812 in 1891.—Dun's Review.

A Chapter on Cheapness.



The Reed Idea. With wages rising in 1892, prices of manufactured goods falling, with lessening hours of labor, what more do you want except more of the same sort?—Hon. Thos. B. Reed.

The Folly of '93.

Insure the house of representatives to the democracy by all means.—New York Sun, September 5, 1892. And how the country has suffered in following such fool advice.

Educate Your Daughters. At this season of the year parents have to decide upon and select the educational institution which their daughters are to attend for the coming year. In this connection we desire to call attention to the educational announcement in our advertising columns of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, Mo. Their buildings and grounds are attractive, locality healthful, teaching in all branches thorough, and terms reasonable. Parents fortunate to select this school for the education and training of their daughters will, we are sure, be fully satisfied. Terms for session of five months: Payable in advance, \$115; this includes tuition, boarding, washing, courses in French, German or Latin, use of library and physician's fee. Next session will open Sept. 1st, 1895. For further information address Mother Superior, Academy of the Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, Mo.

Her Sacrifice. "Henry," said Mr. Meekton's wife, who had been overcoming his objections to some household expenses, "you ought to go into politics." "I'm sure you never gave me any credit for ability in that line before." "No, but I think now that you have some of the right qualities. I never saw anybody more reluctant to talk about money than you are."—Washington Star.

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