

Seized by a British Warship.
MUSCAT, Gulf of Oman, Jan. 27.—The British gunboat Lapwing has seized the steamer Beluchistan off here, and her cargo of arms and ammunition has been confiscated. Her cargo is held by the British consul. It is presumed that the cargo of arms and ammunition seized by the Lapwing was intended for the use of the insurgents of Beluchistan who had recently been giving considerable trouble to the British.

To Become a Missionary.
ASILEK, Kan., Jan. 27.—G. C. Cross, a young farmer who has been making a success of stock raising, has advertised everything he has for sale, and, with his wife, will leave March 1 for South Africa to do missionary work among the natives. He expects to give away all his property except enough to buy tickets and supply food for the journey.

Draw a Revolver on Pupils.
MAISON CITY, Iowa, Jan. 27.—It is said that Leon Jones, teacher of the school at Portland, took a whip there, which his pupils destroyed. When he tried to use a second whip there was general resistance, according to the story, whereupon he produced a revolver and threatened to blow his pupils' brains out. He is reported to have been fined.

The Profit of Fire Insurance.
TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 26.—The reports of twelve of the fire insurance companies which do business in Kansas have been tabulated by the state superintendent of insurance, showing receipts of \$520,863.53 on Kansas business during the year 1897, and losses paid of \$174,599.61.

Secretary Alger Able to Sit Up.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—Secretary Alger was able to sit up in bed and read the papers yesterday. As soon as he is able to stand the fatigues of a journey he will be removed to some convenient resort on the coast, with the chances in favor of Fort Monroe.

Unconscious Fifteen Months.
NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—As the result of a fit blow inflicted by Mark Schlosing, fifteen months ago, William Scott has been unconscious ever since, and physicians say he will probably never recover his senses and may die any moment.

Against Foreign Labor.
COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 27.—A stringent bill against the employment of unskilled foreign labor was introduced in the legislature by Representative N. R. Piper.

Bribery Charges Dropped.
St. JOSEPH, Mo., Jan. 27.—The charge of bribery against James Moran, a lawyer, was dismissed in the criminal court to-day, after it had been tried once and the jury had failed to agree.

Pardons a Jointkeeper.
TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 27.—Charles Rust, a jointkeeper of Goffs, who was sentenced to serve thirty-three days in jail for selling whisky was pardoned yesterday by Governor Leedy.

ALL OXEN LOOKED ALIKE.

Reason Why a Lawyer Couldn't Tell One Animal from Another.
 From the New Orleans Times-Democrat: An ambitious young lawyer paid his first visit to a country court holding its session not far from New Orleans not long since. He went to represent a big railroad in a suit brought by a countryman to recover the value of an ox, which departed this life in a vain attempt to hold up the limited mail. The question before the court was one of identification, and the countryman had testified that he knew the ox by its color and the flesh marks. The young city lawyer rose and with dignity said: "If your honor please, there can be no question that this witness has sworn falsely when he testified that an ox can be recognized by his color. I was a stenographer before I became a lawyer, and for two days, your honor (drawing out his notebook), I have taken a detailed description of every ox that passed the hotel, and I am prepared to swear as an expert that 'all oxen look alike to me.'"
 "You are trifling with the dignity of this court, sir," sternly said the judge, "and I will fine—"
 "Hold on, judge," said the clerk; "there hasn't been out one yoke of oxen in this town in a week. Old man Henley's been a haulin' wood, and the lawyer's been counting the same oxen over and over."
 "Judgment for plaintiff," said the judge, and the city lawyer, glad to escape the wrath of his honor, took his departure, a sadder but wiser man.

The Diamond Jubilee of Telegraphy.
 It is curious that this present year should record the diamond jubilee of telegraphy, and at the same time, bring into prominent notice the possibilities of wireless telegraphy. On June 10, 1837, Cooke and Wheatstone's first patent for electric telegraphs was signed by William IV. The Fall Mail Gazette states that on July 4 of that year the first telegraph wire was laid. The circuit was between Boston and Camden Town Railway Stations, under the permanent way of the London and Northwestern railway (then named the London & Birmingham Railway company). The line consisted of five wires, each wire laid in separate grooves cut out of long blocks of wood. There are many of these blocks in existence. A year or two ago one was dug up, and actually formed part of the circuit through which was flashed to all parts of the empire the message from Buckingham palace on Jubilee day; so that a portion of the first telegraph wire is dug up and served as an aid to the royal message in the very year in which it is proposed to telegraph without wires.

LAMB FEEDING.

Winter Quarters, Lean Meat Rations, Shearing, Need of Water, Etc.
 Food eaten goes to one of two functions, the support of the animal or its growth.

The animal must live, and to live must be kept warm, and this will be done first from the food eaten and all the growth will come later from any surplus of food above these requirements. Very much the largest part of the food of support goes to maintaining warmth. Under ordinary circumstances 70 per cent is thus used, and the conditions may be such that a much larger proportion will be used for this purpose.

So far as any hope of profit is concerned this part of the food might just as well be thrown into a stove and burned as to be consumed in the animal's body as fuel. It follows, of course, that if the lamb to be fed is put into warm quarters less food will be used as fuel and more of it will be utilized in making growth. We should then make the folds or barns for feeding just as warm as the health of the lamb will allow. I have tried different temperatures and find that about 50 or 55 degrees F. is the most desirable. But we will find that no lamb can endure had air and be healthy. Their lungs are sensitive, so we must see to it that the fold is well ventilated and the air kept pure and free from disease germs. If properly ventilated with shoots from the fold up out at the roof, this can be secured without making them too cold or having a draft blowing in on the sheep. Nothing can be worse than to attempt to ventilate by the windows, as it is impossible to do this without having more or less drafts blowing in on the lambs, and when this occurs they are sure to take cold.

No animal is more averse to having wet quarters than the sheep, and no lamb or sheep can be made to do well in a fold having the manure or floor wet. Nor must it be allowed to become filthy. It should be made dry and then kept littered with leaves or straw so as to keep clean, and when so it need not be cleaned out more than two or three times during the winter.

We know another thing. All motion is at the expense of energy, and energy comes only from food eaten. If now we keep the lambs very quiet, they will use less food in this way, and more can go to making growth. Nothing can be more wasteful and foolish than to attempt to feed a lot of lambs running loose over the fields or yards. Not only do they waste much food in the needless exercise, but they are running over and crowding each other from morning till night. To do their best they should be sorted according to size and no more than 25 put together in pens, in warm quarters, not less than eight feet in height in the clear, and when so kept may be safely loosed in a pen that shall give each lamb ten square feet of floor space. In order that the lambs may have ample feeding room the pens may be made only 10 feet wide and long enough so as to give each lamb one foot of feeding rack and trough.

The common notion that lambs do not require much water is very fallacious. No animal needs more or will drink oftener when it has a chance, and no animal is half so particular as to the cleanliness of the water or trough from which it drinks. The drinking troughs should be up just high enough so they can drink easily and should be kept clean enough so the shepherd would be willing to drink from it. As has been said, we want a large amount of lean meat put upon lambs. We know also that the foods having an excess of the nitrogenous elements tend to the production of lean meat. We should also know that sheep, lambs especially, are very fond of a variety in their food. We should therefore feed largely on nitrogenous foods, such as bran, oats, oilmeal and gluten meal for grain, and no forage is so good for lambs as good, early cut, well cured, bright clover hay, and if we have plenty of this we may safely add quite a proportion of corn to the grain ration. In feeding grain it is well to commence with a very small amount and if possible begin to feed a little while still on pasture, and the amount may be gradually increased so long as the grain will show that they are making a good use of what they eat.

As we want the meat juicy as well as lean and as the lambs must be kept healthy some sort of succulent food should be provided. Nothing is better than good silage, which can be safely fed in as large quantities as they will eat. Roots and turnips, rutabagas and mangolds are all good for succulence, and if the lambs are kept warm there is no danger of feeding them too much succulent food—in fact, I have found that they will do better when fed both silage and roots than when fed on either alone.

Regularity in feeding is of the utmost importance—in fact, it will not do at all to feed haphazard. They are so sensitive in this respect that they should be fed each day in the same order as regards pens. Their stomach is as good as a clock, and unless fed at just such an hour and in the same order each day they will fret and worry off all the gain you could expect.

One thing more—I would advise the shearing of the lambs when first put into the folds and for these reasons: It takes all the ticks off with the wool, and no lamb can make a satisfactory gain with no more than a half score of lively ticks; they occupy less space freely and can get about more freely, and then you can keep their folds much warmer. I hope farmers who are feeding their crops growing less will be induced to go into the winter feeding of lambs. I am sure those who do so systematically and stick to it will at the end of five years find a goodly sum to the credit of the lambs, but what is far better they will find that the rich manure made, if judiciously used, will make a good showing in increasing their crops.—J. K. Woodward in National Stockman.

Reported From Billville.

"Jim," she said, as she kicked the back log until the sparks flew upward, "when air you goin ter town ergin?"
 "Tomorrow."
 "Well, when you git thar I wish you'd hitch yer hoss ter a bookstore an ax fer a yaller back novel by Hamlet."
 "Hamlet?"
 "Yes. That insurance agent what stopped by t'other day axed me if ever I'd read Hamlet, an I showed my ignorance by tellin him, 'No.' Git this book fer me, even if it costs a dime."
 —Atlanta Constitution.

Sporting Terms.



Putting Up or Shut Up.
 —Princeton Tiger.

Making a Good Use of the Opportunity.
 Bobbie—Mamma, what makes you so cross?
 Mother—Because, my son, you ask so many questions.

B.—And won't you be cross if I don't ask any more?
 M.—No, my son. That will make me quite cheerful again.

B. (after a short pause)—Mamma!
 M.—Well, Bobbie, what is it?
 B.—Are you cheerful yet?
 M.—Fairly.

B.—'Cause I wanted to ask what you suppose makes grown up people so cross when you just ask a few questions that don't hurt nobody?—Brooklyn Life.

Good News.
 "Your son," said the professor, "has been laboring under a misapprehension."
 "Perfess," exclaimed Father Cornstossel, with joy in his voice, "ye don't mean it!"
 "Mean what?"
 "That Josiah has been workin'."
 —Washington Star.

An Opening For Him.
 De Smyth—The Talmud says, "Love that one who makes thee see thy faults, rather than him who ever praiseth thee."
 D'Arcy—Well, I s'pose it might be possible to love such a fellow, but the man who does it can get a fine job in some dime museum.—Cleveland Leader.

An Honest Confession.
 Bertha (of Chicago)—You say that Miss Emerson is such a cultured person. I can't see that she has more culture than any of the others.
 Edith (of Back Bay)—No, probably not; but she has a way of calling attention to it that the others do not possess.—Boston Transcript.

True Love.
 She—I know I am not the first girl you ever loved.
 He—Well—er—at least you are the first girl I ever bought more than \$17 worth of presents for.—Indianapolis Journal.

Proof Positive.
 "It's not the coat that makes the man," quoted Miss Finesiecle.
 "I should say not," returned Mrs. Runnit, "or we would not be wanting to wear the trousers."—New York Journal.

Safer, Far.
 The Youth—How sweet to own one's own little home nest?
 The Sage—Sweet enough, I guess, but it is a heap safer to have your wife own it.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Even So.
 "I fear," said the manager as the living skeleton sat on him and intermittently hammered him, "I fear that my curiosity has got the best of me."—Indianapolis Journal.

Nothing New.
 "Did you read about the clergyman who is going to preach without pay?"
 "That's nothing. My wife has been doing it for years."—Chicago Record.

Hobson's Choice.
 Judge—Why did you steal the complainant's turkey?
 Colored Prisoner—He had no chick-ens, your honor.—Detroit Journal.

Not Always Music in a Kiss.
 I see here's all sorts o' music
 From the banjo up an down;
 But here's 'n it in the country,
 An hev here's 'n it in the town;

Hev here's 'n th' reddest whistles
 An th' wind carry sing;
 Hev here's 'n th' cow-bells jingling
 An th' ax o' th' woodman ring;

Hev here's 'n th' chickens cackles;
 Hev here's 'n th' rooster crows;
 Hev here's 'n th' pigs a squealin';
 Hev here's 'n th' south winds blow;

Hev here's 'n th' cattle lowin';
 Hev here's 'n th' horses neigh;
 Hev here's 'n th' sheep a bleatin',
 An th' moose o' th' sleigh.

There's music sweet in all o' them,
 But music sweeter still
 At th' parson o' two pair o' legs
 When every thing is still.

Provided that th' gal is young'n
 An you furnish half th' lard;
 But th' fountain has no music
 When th' other fellow signs.
 —James Phillips in Louisville Post.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Conducted by J. Y. M. Swigart. Correspondence solicited.

Profits on Old-Line Insurance.

Editor Farmers Union: I notice in the Farmer's Union of the last week in December an article headed "Insurance Rates." The figures given are simply appalling to the average, and even the well-informed insurance man. But suppose that the writer would have considered the real cash invested by the stockholders instead of the cash capital reported by the companies.
 I will give you a little history of an Illinois company incorporated in 1886, with \$100,000, since which time the stockholders have not been called upon to pay a dollar, but for many years they have been receiving \$40,000 as annual dividends. In fact they have received \$769,663 in dividends up to January 1, 1897. The assets on that date were \$3,100,600. The company collected in premiums \$22,430,356, and paid on losses \$10,911,306.

To put it differently, the real investment of the company was \$100,000, and at the time the last report was made, January 1, 1897, stockholders had received in cash \$769,664, assets, \$3,100,600; total, \$3,870,264. Net gain per year, \$129,000, or 129 per cent per annum. Now, if the writer of "Insurance Rates" will try this rule on any of the companies named, he will find that his apparently appalling figures pale into utter insignificance. Of course old liners will insist that the accumulations that are not divided must be added to the cash capital, and some people look upon that item as an indication of business ability, but if an individual would pile up wealth in the same manner, he should be put in the penitentiary, sent to congress or elected president of a railroad company because of his shrewd business ability.
 J. Y. M. SWIGART.
 Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 4, 1898.

Mutual Fire Insurance.

Mutual Fire Insurance is like Fraternal Life Insurance, the only sensible thing for business people to do. Few people realize the enormous waste and loss from our present and defective fire insurance method and how vast a sum could easily be saved annually by insuring all our property ourselves either on the mutual plan or still better have it done by the state. Good authority estimates the average annual loss by fire in the United States at one hundred and twenty millions of dollars.

The New York Insurance commissioner report for 1891 shows that the fire company's reporting to him for 1890 collected eighty-three millions of dollars and actually paid in losses \$41,687,000. While their expenses were over thirty-three and one half millions. At the usual expense rate of Mutual Fire companies three and one half millions would have more than covered all necessary expenses leaving a net saving of at least thirty millions each year. A rate war has just broken out in Chicago, the Western Union, a combination of the stronger companies, in cutting rates fully one-third showing what a tremendous margin they work on. Let the war go on, the people will profit by it and ultimately learn to carry their insurance themselves. The rate war is going on in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana, and Wisconsin, and insurance papers estimate the yearly saving to those five states, from the cut, if it is maintained, will be \$9,000,000. Let war rage.—Helping Hand.

A Problem in Insurance.
 A correspondent from Clinton county, Iowa, presents the following problem: "If I insure my house or barn for five years and the policy is paid for in cash for that length of time, in two years my property burns and the company pays the loss does that end that policy or insurance although paid for, for five years; or, will the three years' insurance paid and unexpired be allowed on the insurance on the new house or barn?"
 "Does the payment of the loss cancel the policy? Does not the acceptance of payment for five years compel the company to guarantee me a house at its valuation for that length of time? A reply will greatly oblige through the Farmer."

With stock companies the payment of the loss involves the cancellation of the policy, this being the contract, as stated in the policy. Their understanding of the contract is that for a certain definite sum paid in advance, or paid by a note regarded good and collectible, they guarantee against a loss that may occur by fire during that period. If the building burns up they pay the loss, there is nothing further to be insured. The loss is paid, the contract is fulfilled. If the loss is partial, they pay it and cancel the policy to the extent of that payment. We suppose policies might be issued that would indemnify against more than one loss on the property during the five years but they would certainly involve a higher premium. We therefore answer our correspondent's question, "Does the payment of a loss cancel the policy?" in the affirmative—because it is so stated in the contract or policy.—Wallace's Farmer.

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