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FARM AND GARDEN

LAW AGAINST DEGRADING.

Wisconsin (of course, Wisconsin) took the lead in this matter of horse-breeding. They have a singularly forceful veterinary surgeon at the University of Wisconsin, who is also one of the most influential members of the faculty. (Fancy such a condition at Harvard or Yale!) His name is Alexander Septimus Alexander, and he "kissed" a bill to help horse-breeding through the Legislature. He hid the full import of it even from the legislators until after they had passed it. When the bill had become a law and its enforcement began, the owners of mongrel stallions shrieked. But it was too late. The Legislature had adjourned. Alexander's law provided that when a man stands a grade stallion publicly, he must announce in large letters on his advertising matter that he offers a grade stallion.

Speaking in a very general way, a grade is any animal of mixed, mongrel, or impure blood. A big chunk of a blood bay with feather on his legs would be commonly called a grade Shire, for instance. Properly, a grade Shire could be got only by a pure-bred Shire sire. To breed a pure-bred mare to a mongrel stallion would not be grading up, but "degrading."

A grade is often a handsome individual, but he is unsafe to breed to, because the inferior blood concealed in him is apt to show in his offspring.

Alexander's law, besides compelling grade stallions to be advertised as such, absolutely prohibits the public service of stallions with defects pronounced hereditary by the State veterinary inspectors.

Wisconsin passed this law in 1907. Iowa, Minnesota, Utah, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, have now followed suit, and the idea is spreading. The only incomprehensible thing about it is its absence from the Oklahoma Constitution.

In the meantime, up in Madison, Dr. Alexander is blazing away at his pet enemy, the grade stallion. He is now using his influence over the various county fair secretaries of the State to taboo all grades from county fair show-rings.—From "The Percheron and Others," by Joseph McMill Patterson, in Collier's.

value; no repairs are wanted, and it is ready for use as soon as the grass is ready. The new cart that is left by the roadside soon goes to pieces; even if painted, the paint soon wears off the sun cracks, the paint and wood, the heat expands the cracks, and the rain enters the openings, and decay commences, the joints become loose, the rollers and spokes shrink in the dry weather, and the tire must be set often to keep the vehicle in running order. Farmers often overestimate the expense of a tool or wagon on horse. If they have timber or building stone upon their farms, very little money need be laid out to put all running gear under cover. A roof and siding to keep out rain is the main thing. Flooring is not needed. The bare earth under all wooden wheels with tires, if dry, will answer instead of plank. Just enough of moisture is absorbed from the earth to keep the wheel in good condition. The tire will not need setting so often. A shed set upon a back wall makes a good shelter, and is within reach of most farmers.—Weekly Witness.

FARM NOTES.

Cows should be judged by their general appearance, conformation, and records as milk and butter producers. Keep large grit, charcoal and oyster shells before your older birds and you will need no hospital.

Last year's mistakes are all the teaching needed for this year's advancement.

One minute spent putting a tool away saves at least two minutes finding it next time, if it can be found at all.

The prudent man considering a new scheme is like a rat in one respect; he will not enter unless he can see the way out. Trouble is, some traps spring both ends at once.

Now it is the merchants' association of New York city that is complaining of the export companies. They assert too many profits are being made as inflated capital, and they ask that the business be investigated.

Keep the henhouse clean. Great piles of frozen manure underneath the perches is not a very good testimonial for the owner and not much encouragement for the hens to do their best.

The little trees in the woodlot will be larger some time. Cut out the large ones and give them a chance.

Save some of the best young hens for breeding purposes. Eggs from thirty two-year-old hens are pretty sure to hatch.

Poultry manure is worth not less than \$12 a ton. But if you store it where it will get wet, it will not be worth much of anything.

You might about as well throw your hen manure into the creek as to mix it with ashes or lime. Peet or mix is the best to use as an absorbent.

Queer that some folks never think of providing shade for their hens in hot weather!

THE FAT ON THE HOG.

The hog that is to be kept on the farm for breeding purposes does not need much fat on him. The more fat he has the more expense of muscle and energy there is required to carry it around and the more food must there be expended for that purpose alone.

The hog stores nothing on his body except what may be used for some other purpose than to please the butcher. In fact, the butcher is not looked out for by nature. The object nature has in storing up fat is to give a surplus to be used as fuel in the lungs. This fat is to be burned up in the creating of energy to keep the machinery of the body in motion and in the creating of heat to keep up the temperature of the body. There is, therefore, no reason for putting on the back of a hog a lot of fat for him to carry about with him till he needs it. It would be like piling on the tender of an engine more coal than could be used in a single trip. The extra weight would be carried for nothing and would only be in the way. The hog that is to be kept for breeding purposes should, therefore, have only a small amount of fat on him at any time. This will make it more natural for him to exercise and the exercise will improve his health.

The fat on the hog that is to be sold is worth money in the market and should be put on freely. The animal should not, however, have so much fat that he is likely to go down when on the journey to market. The buyers of hogs like to have fat ones but they do not want them too fat. An overfat hog is apt to become too hot when on the way to market and die before reaching the end of his journey. The custom that prevails now of marketing hogs at about ten months results in few of them being too heavy with fat at time of marketing.

The fat on the mature hog is put on profitably, but on the half-developed carcass it is less profitable. Two large portions of it consists of pure fat, and the price of corn is too good at this time to make that kind of a hog very profitable. Every pound of fat put on a hog by the use of corn is put on at a loss, and this loss has to be made up by the improvement in price of the whole carcass. The smaller the carcass the less chance is there of a profit. In fact, trying to put a big lot of fat on a half-developed carcass is a losing operation at this time.—W. H. Underwood, in the Indiana Farmer.

HOT BED FOR SWEET POTATOES.

Please tell me how to make a hot bed for sweet potatoes, and the right time to put the potatoes in for early plants. A Reader.

Answer.—Make your bed perfectly flat, and a good size is six feet. Put your manure in hot, and pack uniformly. It should be about one foot in depth after it is well packed. When frame is set on the bed, shake in enough manure to make four inches more after it is thoroughly packed as before. Then fill the frame nearly full of good mellow earth. The best soil for this purpose is well rotted leaf mold, and it should be at least seven inches deep. Cover the bed with straw to the depth of 8 or 10 inches, and above this make a roof of light boards, with slope enough to carry off the water. The bed should be prepared about one month before the plants will be needed, which would make the time between the first and the middle of May.—Indiana Farmer.

BULKY FOOD FOR HENS.

The bulky meal, cut fodder, clover shatterings, and vegetables, can be profitably given at noon, and enough of this should be given to completely satisfy the hens. Never but they will be hungry for their grain supper.

The coarse bulky feed is the cheapest ration one can give the hens, so it would seem they would never want for it, but it is more bother, and too many expect to receive the profit from the eggs without the bother of aiding the hens to produce the eggs.—Indiana Farmer.

MAKE REPAIRS.

Do you intend to endure all your life that broken lock, that sagging gate, that smashed pane of glass, that wheezy pump, that leaky sink drain and those tumble-down steps? If not, then fix them now, and get at the nearest job first. It will never be easier than right now, and delay means payment of interest in the shape of discomfort, and loss of standing as a man of thrift and order.—American Cultivator.

The Missionary Mule.

"That mule," said the old farmer, "is what I call a 'missionary mule,' an' I'll tell you why: It throwed one man on his head, an' when the man was able to be up an' about ag'in, he went to preachin'; an' the last time the sheriff come to levy on that mule, the critter kicked him 'cross the county line, whar they was holdin' a campmeetin' an' I'm blest of the sherrif didn't git religion an' quit runnin' for office,—whar was uncommon hard to do, seein' that the office habit run in his blood. I tell you, nuthin' in this here world is to be despised, w'en as humble a critter as a mule kin be a missionary!"—Atlanta Constitution.

SHIELDERING VEHICLES AND MACHINES.

Notwithstanding the number of carts, and mowing-machines, and horse-rakes, and other tools that we see standing by the roadside or in the field, the year round, most farmers believe in the economy of housing all these things. They know that iron rusts, and that wood-work swells and shrinks with the changes of the atmosphere. They think it is only a question of time that the new carriage house or shed shall be built, where the scattered tools and vehicles will have a permanent home. This waiting to provide the needed shelter is the most expensive kind of saving. The elements are all the while at work, depreciating the value of the wood and iron that are exposed to the weather. A scythe and snathe hung in a tree through one season is old, warped, and rusty. Stored in the tool-room it is little changed in look or

ENTOMOLOGIS ASKS FARMERS.

To Report Insect Injury to Crops and Write Him if They Will Help in Four Field Tests.

(Reported by Arthur J. Bill, for the Illinois Farmers' Institute.)

Dr. S. A. Forbes, State Entomologist, Urbana, Ill., with a force of assistants is atly working against insect injury, solely with the object of improving the farmer's methods so as to increase the income of the farm, and is never satisfied with a conclusion until it works well in the field and is being used with profit in regular farm practice. Insect devastations affect every farmer and every product, and the entomologist's work is more complex and variable from year to year than that of any other agricultural investigator. In order to get the necessary data and make his work more quickly and widely useful throughout Illinois, Dr. Forbes now urgently asks many farmers in all parts of the state to write him at once if they will help him in any of the following tests or others of their own choosing, he to furnish expert supervision and inspection of results and to every case guarantee the farmer against all loss:

To poison army worms and cut worms with 4 pounds of Paris green to 100 pounds of clean bran mixed up with slightly salted water, sown broadcast, 10 or 15 pounds per acre.

Try deep and early plowing and repeated deep stirring of the soil to get rid of corn root aphids on old corn ground.

To inspect aphid results in a field one part of which has been in corn for three or four years and the other part in oats last year.

To use a planter attachment to fertilize the hills of 20 corn rows with tankage.

Dr. Forbes also asks for prompt notice of any unusual insect injury, particularly the following five:

Wire worms in corn where corn has been on the ground for two or more years preceding.

Bill bug injury to corn in the spring, especially on old ground.

Army worm or cut worm in any crop.

Any injury by the heart worm or stalk borer.

BEWARE OF OINTMENTS FOR CATARRH THAT CONTAIN MERCURY

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by E. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by E. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

Sold by druggists. Price, 75 cents per bottle.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

THE DOMINANT ELEPHANT.

In exploring the Mungo River, a tributary of the Congo, in Africa, one expedition in 1885 was actually stopped and broken up by attacks of elephants. Sir Harry Johnston, in his book, "George Grenfell and the Congo," says that twenty years ago there were elephants to the north of the Kamerun Mountains actually dominated by elephants, which were so hostile to human invasion that they attacked individuals or small companies of men who attempted to make their way through the woodland.

During the rainy season, between April and October, the elephants were wont to pass in enormous numbers from the inundated swamps and meadows to the hill country. It might occur in a single night that a herd of elephants trampled down or otherwise destroyed the cultivated food crops belonging to a whole tribe.

In the drier season of the year they resorted to mud pools near rivers and swamps, where they rolled about until they caked their hides with a sufficient coating of mud to serve as a protection against the elephant fly, an insect which lays its eggs in their hides, and sometimes inflicts on them serious pain and disease.

At night, when the flies retired to rest, the elephants made for great rivers, in which they bathed themselves and swam about until the mud coating was washed off.

To such an extent at this season did they use the waterways that the natives refused to travel at night by boat or canoe, owing to the attacks on them which the elephants would make out of sheer mischief.

In 1885 the natives usually obtained their ivory from the elephants that became entangled in logs and marshes; for the elephants of the Kamerun interior were so wild and savage that the natives who tried to kill them was as likely as not killed in the attempt.

The present writer, when he ascended the Kamerun River in 1898, was told by the Wari and Bonken people that large numbers of elephants became entombed in the treacherous logs of the Kamerun River valley. They were constantly searching after places in which to wallow in the mud, and would sometimes plunge into a bog too deep and treacherous. Here they were either suffocated, or could be safely attacked by the natives, when abandoned by their companions. The ground which might be too soft for the passage of an elephant would still afford a firm footing for men.

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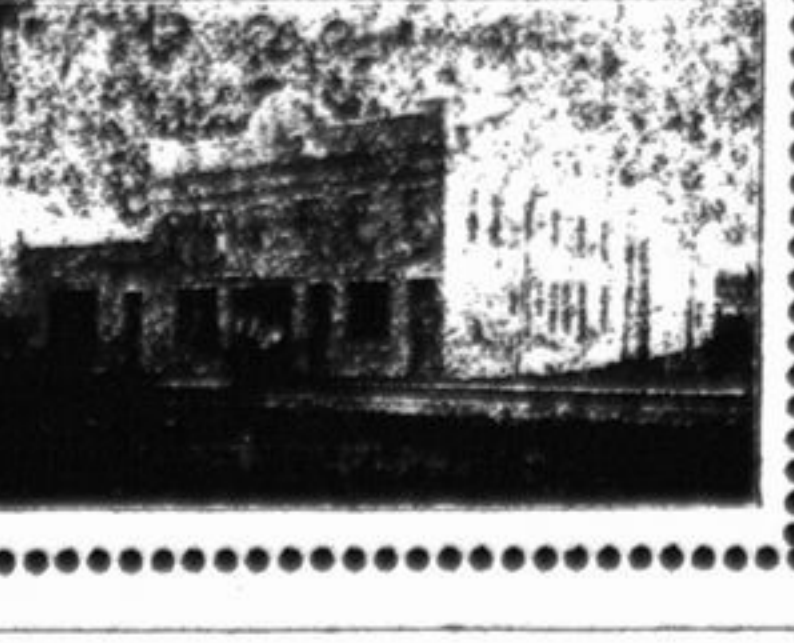
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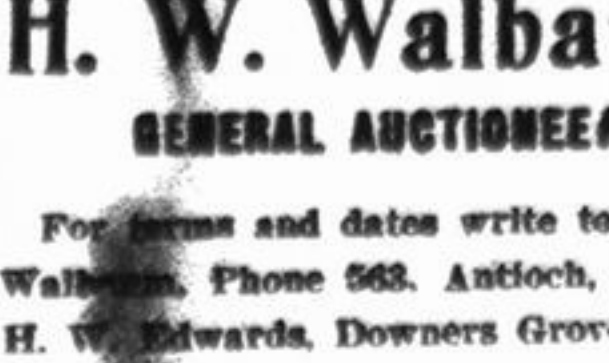
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