Farm Notes

Cost of Rearing Draft Horses

One of the big problems that the farmers of many provinces will have to face for at least some years to come is where the necessary draft horses may be purchased. Will they be good horses and the kind desired? How much will they cost?

With the object of throwing light on this question, cost studies have been made at the Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere Experimental Station since 1921. From that year to 1926, thirteen Percheron colts were raised to the age of two and one-half years. The weights of the colts, food consumed, and cost for each colt, was tabulated.

To grow these colts to working age, an average of 4,921 pounds of hay, 3,664 pounds of oats, 990 pounds of bran, and 7.7 months of pasture was required, at an average cost of $116.37 per colt weighing 1,517 pounds.

No mention is made of the service fee as this varies with the stallion used and district, nor has any charge been made of the mares having nursed these colts. At this Station, as at many farms where colts are raised, the mares, as a rule, are, before giving birth to the colts and after weaning, worked more than necessary to pay for their upkeep during the year. From the figures given above on the feed consumed by the thirteen colts reared in this five-year period, it will be seen that the average cost is 40 per cent. below the cost of draft horses of similar qualifications and weight in the open market. These experiments and many others appear in the annual reports of the Experimental Farms and Stations, which may be had on application to the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

Protective Measures for Mosquitoes

The annoyance from mosquitoes and black-flies may be greatly lessened by the application to the skin of mixtures that have repellant qualities. While many mixtures have been tried, none of them are entirely effective, but some are of great value especially when the insects are very numerous. Some mixtures that have been found useful to campers are described by Mr. M. B. Dunn, Entomologist of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, in Pamphlet No. 55. While suitable preparations can be obtained at drug stores, very effective mixtures can be made at home. One of the best recommended by Mr. Dunn is composed of oil of Citronella 3 ounces; spirits of Camphor, and oil of tar, 1 ounce each; oil of pennyroyal, ¼ ounce; and castor oil, 4 to 6 ounces. A simple mixture is made of oil of citronella and castor oil each 2 ounces and oil of pennyroyal, one-eighth of an ounce. The purpose of the castor oil is to prevent injury to the skin by the other ingredients. Tallow may be used instead but the mixture made with it is in the form of grease or salve which of itself may add discomfort. Whatever dope is used should be applied liberally to the skin of the hands, face or neck that is exposed, about once an hour. As a safeguard against accidents it is recommended to carry the liquid dope in an aluminum flask or screw top tin rather than in a glass bottle which may be broken in the pocket.

Smudges For Mosquito Control

When mosquitoes and black-flies are troublesome much relief can be secured from smudges. To be effective for any length of time, however, it is important that they be well built. In Pamphlett No. 55 of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, on the subject of protection from mosquitoes, black-flies and similar pests, instructions are given for building a smudge that should last for an hour. An area several feet square should be cleared of debris and top soil. A bright fire should then be started and several fair sized sticks of wood added. These should be allowed to burn until reduced to bright embers. On these should be placed, a small quantity at a time, green ferns, leaves, shrubs, damp leaf mould, and rotten wood. The addition of dry wood from time to time may be necessary to keep the fire sufficiently alive to burn the damp material which will give off a heavy smoke. If used within a tent smudges should be confined to a metal pail. Such smudges as are described are especially useful at meal time and may be of service to drive mosquitoes from a tent or camp. To clear a tent the smudge should be placed in the part farthest from the door, the smoke being billowed to the roof and in the direction of the door with a bit of bark. The insects will move ahead of the smoke and if the door be previously opened for a few moments, most of them can be driven out. This process, according to Mr. M. B. Dunn, the author of the pamphlet, when repeated every hour will keep the tent in a fairly habitable condition.

The Chinchilla Rabbit

Of the many breeds of rabbits that are bred for their fur, the chinchilla is perhaps the most valuable. According to Bulletin No. 28 of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa on "Rabbits," the chinchilla originated in France about fifteen years ago. Since then it has spread to Great Britain, the United States, Canada, and many other countries. The standard of registration set up for the fancy chinchilla by the Canadian Small Breeds Association, gives the color as resembling the wild chinchilla, with an intermediate portion pearl grey, merging into dark grey and black, then white, and finally tipped with black. The weight is 6 and 7 pounds for does and 5½ to 6½ for bucks. Other qualifications are described in the pamphlet, which treats of housing, feeding, breeding, and marketing the carcasses and skins.

Two Principal Methods of Canning

The one-period cold-pack method is so called because the uncooked or partly cooked food is packed into a jar and covered with some liquid, such as syrup or water, and both the jar and its contents are heated simultaneously by boiling water or steam. This method may be used for all fruits and vegetables and is recommended for home use. It is a very simple process and completely sterilizes inasmuch as the product is placed in the sterilized jars which are closed during the cooking process so that the organisms are killed and access by any bacteria from the air and other outside sources is rendered impossible. The appearance of the finished product is superior as each berry or slice remains intact. There is no crushing. The flavor, color and texture are more natural.

Another method, described in Bulletin No. 77, "Preserving Fruits and Vegetables in the Home," obtainable from the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, is the fractional or intermittent method, which involves the carrying on of the sterilization period for three successive days. This is used in the case of vegetables which are not strictly fresh, and especially applicable and desirable for those vegetables lacking acid ,such as peas, corn and beans. It is more thorough as regards sterilization than the one-day process owing to the fact that spores, which may develop after the earlier sterilization, are bound to succumb during the successive periods of sterilization, but the intermittent sterilization involves considerably more handling than is necessary in the one-day method; also more fuel is consumed.—Issued by the Director of Publicity, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Ancient Relics Found in Mexico

Government Excavations Reveal Ancient Relics of Mayan and Toltec Civilizations

Mexico City.—With the coming of summer and the rainy season archæological activities of the Mexican Government have been suspended, except for the vigilance kept over the more than 1,200 sites where remains of pre-Columbian buildings or carvings are preserved.

The most important work of Mexican archæologists in the Maya area this year was the restoration of "El Castillo," in Chichen Itza, Yucatan.

The white limestone temple of Kukulkan, topping a great pyramid which commands the ancient city, its entrances guarded by warrior-priests carved on the door lintels and by feathered serpent columns, is now practically completed.

The pyramid itself once faced with limestone slabs held on in panel and provided with four steep stairways, is being reconstructed on its north and west faces with the fallen material, the rest to remain as found.

In Uxmal, another Maya city of Yucatan, repairs have been completed on the falling facades of the Governor's House," called the most beautiful royal dwelling known.

In the ancient Toltec city of Teotihuacan on the Mexican highlands, excavations were made this year in front of the "Subterranean Buildings" which are noted for their frescoes. Walls, floors and terraces were found, and pottery pieces, one of which bears the painted figure of a Toltec priest.

Possibly the most interesting of all the work of the Mexican Direction of Archæology, which is under Jose Reygadas Vertiz, has been the excavation and restoration, just completed, of an Aztec pyramid at Tenayuca near Mexico City, unique in the entire country. When dug up it was found as described by an eyewitness of the Spanish Conquest, surrounded on three sides by walls of coiled stone serpents, and with a great stairway on the fourth side, the side of the setting sun.

In it were found carved and polished ornaments of jade, volcanic glass and stone, fine arrow heads and spear points of obsidian, pieces of a large-linked gold chain, and perhaps most important of all, wads of charred cloth, for finds of genuine pre-Columbian textiles are now rare.

He Belongs

New York Herald-Tribune: It leaks out that while the President likes news reels and mystery films he does not care for the "talkies." Hollywood, which is "talkies" mad, regards the Presidential preference as an outrageous usurpation of powers which the Constitution never granted to the White House and threatens to go Democratic in consequence. The rest of us, however, will throw up our hats with an extra cheer for Mr. Hoover. Mr. Hoover may have translated Agricola from the Latin and he may be an up-to-date 1929 efficiency engineer, but if he really likes the old-time silent "movies" he is one of us after all. He belongs.

Mussolini opposes beauty contests because Italian girls never win. If only he would apply that reasoning to the Caesar complex.

Please Keep Out

FEATHER WATCH DOG

Daisy, a butcher's goose in London, stays at the door all day and keeps out cats and dogs who might try to steal a bone or a piece of liver.

Animal Fallacies

By DAVID LEE WHARTON

Strange, is it not, how certain fallacies in regard to animals become so deeply embedded in the human mind? Many who are really fond of animals and should know better, still cherish these illusions. For example, it is commonly believed that it is from choice that animals upon the approach of death steal away to die alone. Now any one who has soothed the last moments of a loved and loving subhuman friend, walked with him to the gates of death and watched them close upon him, knows that an animal longs for the companionship of his loved ones in the hour of death as much as does any human. Wild animals who have no human friends seek reculsion, perhaps, in order to avoid vultures, or the cannibalistic of their own kind. And, speaking of death among animals, what becomes of the thousands of sparrows which must die annually in large cities? Only after a severe storm or terribly cold period is a dead bird seen on city streets. Even in the woods a dead bird is an unusual sight. There is an old legend which affirms that birds do not die, but are borne away to Heaven while alive. At any rate, it is a rare thing to come across a bird which has died of itself.

Another queer idea is that animal faces are inexpressive. Why, no face on earth is sa capable of registering astonishment as that of a dog! His look of amazement is, at times, so exaggerated as to be ludicrous. Consider the expression of fatuous complacence upon the face of a (supposedly) fierce bull-dog or blase Thomas cat when being fondled and flattered. The dog, especially, is a pantomimist par excellence. Curiosity, contrition, in fact almost every emotion is partrayed without effort. He makes himself understood even by man, the "dumbest" of animals. A bear when living among men and treated with kindness, acquires such a human expression as to be uncanny. And what a fine fellow is a bear, and how little understood! One of the most companionable of beasts.

Domestic animals are said to become more attached to places than to persons. In rare instances this is true, but not as a rule. To the average household animal home is where the "Boss" is. In the days before every family owned its car it was not unusual to see, chained to the seat of a moving van, beside the driver, a woebegone canine. Moving day has its terrors for him as well as the rest of the family. The new domicile may not be as much to his liking as the old home, but he proceeds to make himself as comfortable and happy as possible.

Still another mistaken idea is that animals do not care for cleanliness. Every animal is happier when clean, even those who dislike water. Cats and monkeys, as heartily as they detest a washing, are delightfully comfortable and happy after a forcible bath.

Even the sparrow, who is no dandy, mockingbird, will bathe at every opportunity. Watch the sparrows gather and enjoy a "shower" when the sprinkler is left going on the lawn. The canary, of course, must have his bath daily.

The majority of people firmly believe that dogs understand only tones and gestures, and not the words themselves. Any one who talks with dogs and not merely to them, will smile at this assertion. Mention, even casually, dogs or cats, in the hearing of a dog, in the language to which he is accustomed, and see his instant interest, but speak of them as emphatically as you please in a foreign language, and he pays no attention, simply because he does not understand the words.

One of the most cruel and unjust of fallacies in regard to animals is that they are incapable of mental suffering. Never a day glides into eternity but bears the life of at least one "beast" who has died of a broken heart.

That domestic animals are able to provide food and shelter for themselves is another pernicious delusion. Where in Heaven's name can a dog or cat find refuge from the elements with every garage and cellar door locked, or food, with every morsel cast into a garbage can and closely covered? How little time and effort it would cost to put the edible scraps in a pan, or even upon a paper, and place it where some hungry waif could get it!

That animals are possessed of instinct only, and not of reason, is still another foolish error. Why is it so difficult, apparently, to realize that the "lower" animals are creatures of like feelings as ourselves, and that the lordliest king and lowliest living thing are "brothers under the skin"?

United States Senator Schall of Minnesota, who is blind, has a very intelligent police dog who acts as his guide in Washington. Schall called at the White House and while there the President, then Calvin Coolidge, asked him to bring in his dog of whom he had heard a great deal.

"This dog is the first visitor I have had in nearly eight years that didn't want something," the President remarked, patting the dog's head.—Capper's Weekly.

It has taken Niagara Falls 30,000 years to move seven miles. It's just like Sunday traffic.

Czechs Awaiting Budapet Report Of Border Incident

Governments Eager for Peaceful Settlement of Espionage Affair

Vienna—The arrest of a Czechoslovak railway cashier, on a charge of espionage, at the frontier station of Hidas Nemethi, in East Hungary, by Hungarian police officers, continues to occupy the attention of the central European press. The Czechoslovakian Ambassador in Budapest protested on behalf of his Government that, whether this man is guilty or not guilty of spying, his arrest is quite contrary to the railway agreement signed by both states.

Czechoslovak Cabinet Ministers, meeting in Prague, after discussing the affair, decided to await further explanations from the Hungarian Government. Though the ultra Nationalist press of both countries alike has demanded suspension of all railway traffic along the whole frontier, both the governments and the saner press organs are anxious for a peaceful settlement.

Unfortunately the present incident is but one of many which have happened recently, in which a number of arrests of nationals of one state in the other have occurred. The Prager Tagblatt declares that the worst of the present situation is not so much the incident itself as the atmosphere it has created.

The Neue Freie Press demands a conference for central and east Europe, to do for these states what Locarno and the Young plan are doing for the western powers. Many thousand Hungarians who annually visit Czechoslovakian spas have now canceled their arrangements and are going elsewhere.

Prince of Wales Opens Air Show

London—The Prince of Wales opened at the Olympia the most important air exhibition yet held in Europe. France, Germany, Italy, and for the first time in Europe, the United States were represented. The British Air Ministry released some hitherto secret aircraft, though their capabilities remained unpublished.

Interesting items include the submarine Southampton, a flying boat; Vicker's fighting machine, capable of speeds upward of 200 miles an hour, Vicker's Victoria type which rescued more than 600 persons stranded at Kabul during the Afghan trouble, a new 40-seater Handley Page biplane, and a Parnall seaplane which folds its wings and slips into a submarine. This tiny machine was contrasted with a huge Fairey monoplane capable of carrying over 1,000 gallons of petrol.

Bareback Rider: And you really love me?

Sword Swallower: Love you up to the hilt!

The English Play Attitude

The British have given free rein to their play-instinct, but, while confining it by rules, they have not thwarted its natural development. Here and there, under Puritan influence, play has been forcibly repressed, but such repression was temporary and had little effect on developments in other directions. It is this natural evolution of the play-spirit which has given English character its most interesting features and from the political, cultural and broadly human point of view, its most important aspect. . .

The play-attitude is essentially naive. English games are not "made," nor are they necessarily organized; they are entirely natural. In whatever sphere, sport, drama or music, they have arisen as naive expressions of natural instinct. "The naive is childishness occurring where least expected." In writing this, Schiller had no thought of England, but if he had been describing English character he could not have been more to the point. The English language has no word to define the most characteristic. We have to borrow it from the French naivette. And it was in looking for something little in keeping with their own character that they discovered it. But with the English, naivete is a permanent quality. Play gives them the means of retaining happy childhood right into old age. It is nowadays everywhere the fashion, and a very pleasant one, to appear, and inwardly to be, younger than the calendar permits or our grandfathers could have expected. In England this fashion is no discovery. . . . Reaction against leaden Puritanism has been mainly instrumental in stimulating the Hellenistic spirit, the cult of physical beauty, the play-attitude of the ancients, which ranged from the theatre to the arena. Human nature carves out its path urged on by a desire for free rhythm and new harmonies . . . such harmony is only obtainable when one can remain naive, and make sport merely a link between the physical and the intellectual; when one can keep in the background not only artificial organization and its excesses, but athletic exaggeration; in short, when the play-attitude achieves more than a brilliant kick or an absurd record. To have achieved such harmony, in their own way and not without some trembling of the balance, is the merit of the English people. In the past Puritanism, often unconsciously and unintentionally, has been the most dangerous enemy to the development of childlike naivete in the British character. In our own time the greatest danger and rival has been the commercialization of sport.

In the field of sport England has returned to both natural and national paths, but the nation is beginning to get back, in the same natural manner, to all other kinds of play as well. Thus a wide vista is opened up, for the motive force behind this childlike simplicity is, like everything fundamentally natural, potential artistic power and a mainspring of national culture. England's most valuable intellectual and artistic achievements have always been based on a popular foundation, and the same can almost be said of English art. . . . .

By virtue of their play-sense the English have acquired certain qualities which are as precious to themselves as they are pleasing to others; a rare sense of humor . . meeting its blows with laughter; on the other hand, remarkable social and moral gifts, the result of team work, that is to say, manly rivalry under the ægis of fair play.—Rudolf Kircher, in "Fair Play: the Games of Merrie England." Translated by R. N. Bradley from the German.

Mr. Maxton's Party

London Evening Standard (Ind. Cons.): More than once already Mr. Maxton has fired, as it were, a warning gun for the new Government, but in Glasgow recently he let off what can be described only as a positive salvo. "I want to suggest," he said, "that there are more than three parties in the field." . . . There is not much doubt as to what he means. The fourth party that he has in mind is his own, the "Socialism in our time" movement, which is represented by the thirty-three Labor members who were nominated as candidates at the general election directly by the Independent Labor Party. Just as nineteenth century Radicalism bred to its left a Labor Party which could not definitely be called Socialist, so that Labor Party has bred this, which definotely can. For a long time the Liberal Party was accustomed to reckon the Labor members in the House among its own forces. Up to now the official Labor Party, with Mr. MacDonald at its head, has been accustomed thus to reckon Mr. Maxton and his followers. There have been divergences of opinion and questions of party discipline, but it was not doubted that in the last resort the Maxtonists were really behind the party. That seems now to be changed, and it looks as though Labor, which has always spoken with two voices, were now going to develop two bodies.

Our Needs

As you grow ready for it, somewhere or other you will find what is needful for you in a book or a friend. —George MacDonald.

"How is your wife with the cook book?" "I suspect she uses a mystery novel."

Renewing Many Friendships Made During t he War

PRINCE OF WALES INSPECTS HIGHLANDERS AT TROOPING OF COLORS

His Royal Highness took the salute of the first battalion of Seaforth Highlanders, of which he is colonel-in-chief, at their recent ceremony of trooping the colors.