

AGRICULTURAL.

Evergreen Planting.

Few trees look finer in the yard than a good selection of evergreens... The principal objection often is the difficulty in getting them to grow.

Successful Feeding.

The quantity of butter produced by an ordinary cow depends much more largely on the feed and care of the animal than on the breed.

Experience with Fence-Posts.

It seems that there are some vexed questions that are never to be settled, among which are: When to cut timber; how to make posts last; whether wheat will turn to chaff; and whether the various phases of the moon have an effect on the animal economy.

A Gate Fastener.

A farmer says he has for several years been noticing the different modes of fastening gates, and has invented a plan of his own, which he estimates as good as can be made.

an inch of the head. Put one end of the chain on the nail, put the staple in the other end of the chain, and drive the staple in the gate post, leaving the chain a little loose.

The Life Guards in Action.

A correspondent with General Graham in the Snakin-Barber Expedition, thus speaks of the Life Guards when under fire:—

Nothing could surpass the steadiness of the Guards. They fired as coolly as on a field day. I even heard them quietly joking along the ranks up to the moment of the charge.

Our troops quickly followed them up as they circled around the crests, pouring in a very hot fire at every point, and never letting them stop to concentrate.

By 11 30 a.m. all the adjoining hills had been cleared of the enemy, and our outposts held all the points originally occupied by these brave Arabs.

They had retreated farther into the hills on the right, and were being still followed by the troops. At this moment it was that I tried to get away with my despatches, but, as before telegraphed, I found a body of the enemy coming suddenly across our rear.

Some Arabs, excellently mounted on good camels, pushed forward after me, but my horse was too good for them. Returning to the front, I found the enemy still hotly contesting the ground inch by inch.

After these good soldiers had quickly climbed and lined the crest, smart firing immediately commenced, very soon increasing to a rolling thunder of musketry, which woke up a furious echo among the surrounding hills.

The word "coulee," which appears in dispatches from the scene of Gen. Middleton's operations in the north-west, signifies a ravine, or, more definitely, what in the Eastern States is termed a gully.

The house of correction—The printing house.

A Georgia two-year-old stamped his mother by examining carefully his sister's eyes, and then asking: "Mamma, where does the Lord get his blue dust from?"

A little girl watching a kite made of a daily paper: "Mamma, isn't it going very high?" "Yes, my love, it is." "Do you think it will get beyond that cloud?" "It wouldn't surprise me if it did; why do you ask?" "Well, I thought if it went as far as that the Lord might be able to read the news."

SUN BEANS.

Man is like a sun-bean, when he will get into hot water.

It makes a red-nosed man very angry to have a little girl ask him in the presence of others if it hurts.

Oscar Wilde, who favors abolishing the coat-and waistcoat, will, if he keeps on, soon look like a society lady in full dress.

It seems no more than right that men should seize Time by the forelock, for the rude old fellow sooner or later pulls all their hair out.

A naturalist has discovered that one of the curiosities of natural history is that a woman says "shoo" to frighten chickens and "boo" to a goose.

"What's in a name?" asks Shakespeare. A great deal, William; a great deal. There is an artist in Brooklyn with the significant but not appropriate appellation of A Dauber.

A little girl whose general idea of Scripture was better than her knowledge of detail, in quoting a well known passage rendered it as follows: "Man is born, and woman is full of trouble."

The Arabians have a funeral custom of placing ten cents in the mouth of a corpse to pay its passage over the river of death. If that is the price, it is an outrage. The fare ought to be reduced to five cents.

An article in an exchange describes the Queen of Madagascar's annual bath. Annually seems a long while between baths, but fortunately the queen wears a cuticle that doesn't show the dirt.

After her grandmother had given her a good scolding, a little mischief was overheard to say to herself: "Somebody is cross in this room; 'tain't me and 'tain't dolly and 'tain't kitty. I wonder who it is!"

A Paterson man recently advertised "in stantaneous babies," and his place was overrun by women until it was understood that he was a photographer, and that the last half of his advertisement had been "pled."

An English traveler in looking over some American town names came across the well-known one of Pawtucket, Shetucket and Nantucket. "Haw, haw!" he exclaimed, "I'm blessed if the whole family didn't look it!"

There is a religious sect in Ohio which believes that when human beings die they turn into cats. Doesn't it make a man shiver, though, to think that perhaps he has been slinging bookjacks all Winter at his wife's grandmother.

A man never finds out how little he knows about domestic matters until his wife asks him to keep his eye upon the baby and see that a pan of melted butter is kept stirred while she goes into the attic to look through her rag bag.

"Oh, how do, Black! I'm almost ashamed of myself for not calling before. But I've put it off and put it off until it did seem I never would call." Black: "Don't mention it, my dear fellow. You are very kind, I'm sure."

Mrs. Yerger is not handsome, and her voice when she sings is dreadful, but Colonel Yerger is very demonstrative. "Why is he always kissing her?" asked a friend of the family of another gentleman. "I can't imagine, unless it is to keep her from singing."

They had been married six weeks, and she said: "No don't oo stay out late, but come home soon to oor 'little wifey tiffy!" They had been married six years, and she said: "If you go out to-night, Smith, I'm going to lock up the house and go over and sleep at mother's."

Times are said to be so hard in Jalveston than when a clerk goes out on the first of the month to collect bills for a leading firm and comes home at night with a dollar and a quarter and the ceiling of his pants worn out by the boots of the customers from whom he collected it, the boss regards it as a good day for collections.

A couple of tons of powder exploded in Salt Lake City the other day, wrecking everything in the neighborhood and shaking the whole town. A deaf old woman who lived a couple of blocks away pricked up her ears and said, "Come in!" Then she said to her daughter: "Law me, I do believe I'm getting back my hearing."

Leprosy in the South Pacific.

At Kalawao, on the island of Molokai, is a settlement of lepers, about 800 in number. This dreadful disease which is considered to be incurable, is believed to have been brought to the island by the Chinese. It is almost entirely confined to the native population, though there are a few whites at the settlement.

The usual daily programme consists at present of a good rubbing down in the morning by Daniel Bowers, the groom, a brisk walk on the track in the forenoon and another in the afternoon, after which the mare is again well rubbed down and every particle of mud removed from her hoofs and legs.

"What's the matter with the baby?" asked a lady of a little girl, whose baby brother she had understood to be ailing. "Oh, nothin' much," was the answer. "He's only hatching teeth."

RECIPTS FOR HOME.

CUCUMBER SAVEN.—Take seven cucumbers, six or eight white onions, half pint of salt, two quarts cider vinegar, quarter cup of black pepper, one cup black mustard seed, six dozen cloves. Slice the cucumbers and onions, and put them with the salt in a bag to drain for six hours; then add pepper, mustard seed and cloves, and cold cider vinegar.

ROAST CLAMS.—These are very nice if properly done. Select either large or small clams. Lay them on the coals, and as their shells open, watch them closely until they are somewhat cooked. Send them to the table as hot as possible, on the half shell, with a small piece of butter on each.

CLAM SOUP.—Boil a knuckle of veal; strain the liquor; add twenty-five clams, chopped fine, four good sized potatoes, one onion; drop dumplings. Season to taste with pepper, salt, sweet marjoram or parsley. Just before serving, thicken with one egg, and flour, made smooth with a little cream.

SAGO SOUP.—Take good, clear, soup stock; remove the fat from the top and strain. Bring to a boil, and stir in half a cup of pearl sago, which has been washed and soaked for half an hour in tepid water, or three hours in cold. Season if needed. Simmer half an hour, and pour out. Send around grated cheese with it.

TURKEY SOUP.—Break up all the bones of one turkey; add one pint of soaked split peas, and three quarts of water. Put it on early in the morning; add a little celery and salt for flavoring. Season with pepper and salt, and boil slowly until noon. Strain.

BEEF SOUP.—Three pounds of lean beef, with a marrow-bone; a ham-bone, if you have it, or half-pound of lean ham; one turnip, one onion, one carrot, quarter of a cabbage, three stalks of celery, three quarts of cold water. Salt and pepper to taste. Cut the meat fine, and crack the bones. Put them in a pot with a close top, cover with one quart of water and bring slowly to a boil; the slower the better. When it begins to bubble, add the other two quarts of water, and boil slowly for three hours—two hours with closed top and the last with it slightly lifted. Wash and peel the turnip, carrot and onion; scrape the celery and wash with the cabbage. Cut all into dice, and lay in cold water, slightly salted, for half an hour. Stew the carrot by itself in hot water until tender, then set aside to cool. Put the other vegetables on all together, in enough cold water to cover them, and let them boil to pieces, strain them half an hour before taking up the soup, and press to a pulp. Return the liquid to the saucepan, throw in a little salt, and let it boil up once to clear it; skim and add to the soup. Put in pepper and salt, unless the ham has salted it enough, and boil covered, twenty minutes. Strain into an earthen dish; let it get cold enough for the fat to rise. Skim off all you can. Rinse the pot with water; return the soup to it; boil briskly one minute, and throw in the carrot. Skim and serve.

Maud S.'s Bill of Fare. A group of well-known horsemen stood around Maud S. in her comfortably fitted apartment in the Belmont Park stables, Philadelphia, the other day, and discussed the probability of the famous trotter lowering next fall her already great record. The little mare, who is always given the full range of her commodious stall, moved from one man to another, playfully poking her nose under their arms or into their coat pockets in quest of the tidbits she is accustomed to receive. She finally got around to her trainer, W. W. Bair, against whose cheek she rubbed her nose, and then proceeded to make a thorough examination of his coat pockets. "She wants some candy," said Mr. Bair. "She likes it."

After eating several pieces of candy with apparent satisfaction, she demonstrated the versatility of her taste by munching with equal pleasure a small slice of ginger-bread and a piece of pretzel. "The little mare began joggng on the track on Monday last," Mr. Bair said, "but so far she has not been moved much, only enough to give her necessary exercise. The track is in such bad condition that nothing can be done on it yet. We jog Maud around six or seven miles a day at a slow gait now, but after the track gets better we will let her go faster."

The usual daily programme consists at present of a good rubbing down in the morning by Daniel Bowers, the groom, a brisk walk on the track in the forenoon and another in the afternoon, after which the mare is again well rubbed down and every particle of mud removed from her hoofs and legs. Her food consists principally of warm mash. Since she came to the park there has been no perceptible change in her weight, which is now 1,040 pounds. She weighed 942 pounds when she made her record of 2:09 at Lexington, Ky. Mr. Bonner was at Belmont Park last week and expressed great satisfaction with the condition of Maud S. He has not decided as to what places she shall trot during the approaching season.

The great seal of England consists of two silver disks, closely fitting one to the other, in appearance not much unlike two bright tin sauce-pan lids without handles; and these disks, on being separated, would reveal on the inner surface of one a deeply cut device of the queen enthroned, with representations of the cardinal virtues around her, and on the other her majesty sitting on a highly caparioned horse, attended by a page. These two silver disks are, in fact, the matrix by means of which is formed that enormous wax seal commonly known as the great seal of England, and which is affixed to acts of the sovereign which it is the royal pleasure publicly to make known.

Mule jokes have all the nature of the ostrich; they ignore their own existence; they stubbornly refuse to quit going the rounds of the newspaper. Jokes about mules run about neck and neck. This is due to the fact doubleless that both are high kickers.

ARMED CRUISERS.

What Britain is Doing to Protect Her Commerce.

The Admiralty has now chartered five of the fastest and finest passenger steamers in the Atlantic trade, the Oregon, America, Arizona, Umbria, and Alaska. The steamers Ooplia and Britannia are also chartered. The government will increase the number of armed cruisers to twenty. The conversion of first-class ocean steamers into armed cruisers has now begun in earnest. Following closely upon the decision to call out the Reserve, the announcement was made that the government had, in view of possible hostilities, secured four of the most modern, swiftest, and largest steamers in the British mercantile marine for warlike purposes, and at present matters have so far progressed that Messrs. Laird Brothers, of Birkenhead, who have been entrusted with the work by the Admiralty began the alterations that are found indispensable to convert the National Line steamer America into a ship of war. Built under the supervision of the Admiralty, all the great Atlantic liners are well adapted for the service for which the America the Eururia, the Oregon, and the Alaska have been chosen; but, as the primary object kept in view during their construction has been to produce the best possible mercantile steamer, before they are armed, considerable modifications are necessary. The primary requirements of the Admiralty are that the ships placed on the list should have adequate stability, and be divided into numerous watertight compartments, and in these respects the America is a splendid specimen of her class. She is built throughout of steel, is divided into thirteen compartments by strong transverse bulkheads, and is capable of continuing afloat with the sea in any two of her compartments. In her main construction, therefore, no alterations are required; but as the ship was fitted so as to carry about 1,400 steerage and 350 saloon passengers, in addition to the crew, many of the appliances that were absolutely indispensable on a crack passenger steamer are now not only unnecessary, but are absolutely in the way. The whole deck devoted to passengers has consequently been cleared. The emigrants' quarters fore and aft have disappeared, and the bare side wall and bulkheads of the ship are all that remains. The handsomely fitted staterooms, sleeping-births, baths, and lavatories, and the accommodation provided on the same deck for other passengers have also disappeared. What will be placed in the vacancies thus created has yet to be determined, but if, as is intended, the America is to be utilized as a troopship as well as a cruiser, it will be possible to provide sleeping accommodation on this deck for fully 2,000 men.

By far the most difficult matter in the conversion of the steamer is its armament. This is to be of a somewhat formidable character, and will include four 6 in. Vavasseur guns, six 64-pounder guns, six Nordenfelta, as well as four pinnaces for torpedo service. On the top of the fore-castle two Vavasseur guns are to be placed, one at each side, at a distance of 25ft. or 30ft. from the bow. The fore-castle should not be strong enough to bear the strain put upon it, a massive bulkhead will be constructed below between the main deck and the underside of the fore-castle, and the whole of the superstructure will be firmly bolted to this bulkhead, which in turn will be fixed to the main deck. Immediately under the commencement of the upper deck a 64-pounder gun will be fixed, and about thirty feet nearer midships a second 64-pounder will be placed on each side of the vessel. The carriages of these guns will remain upon the main deck, and will be placed there without difficulty. No further armament will be provided on this deck until the space between the upper deck and the poop near the stern is reached. Midway here a 64-pounder will be mounted on each side of the ship. Upon the poop two Vavasseur guns will be mounted, precisely as upon the fore-castle, a level surface being provided with tank and strength furnished by steel plates and a bulkhead underneath. The guns, both on the fore-castle and the poop, will be in very exposed positions, but this fact is compensated for by their width of range, which extends over 150 degrees. The four guns have almost a direct fire over both bow and stern, and as they will be able to work round to fifty-eight degrees toward midships, it will be extremely difficult for any hostile vessel to escape them. The 64-pounders, of which there will be three on each side, will each have a range of ninety degrees, and will thus command the whole broadside of the ship.

The Great Seal of England.

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