

## FARMER'S CORNER.

### Cramming for the Shows.

Where size and weight are the standards by which animals are judged, we do not wonder that Englishmen, and Canadians, following the English example, take great pains to prepare their animals for the Fair. A friend who visited a noted sheep-raiser in Canada, a few years ago, gave us an amusing account of the manner in which the Cotswolds were pampered for days before the exhibition. The animals were fed with the usual foods frequently and abundantly, but there were beds of lettuce and other attractive plants which had been provided for the purpose, and the animals were tempted with these, one more lettuce leaf being regarded as a great gain, if the animal could be tempted to eat it. A system of persistent stulting was followed for a number of days, and when the animals started for the Fair, an abundant supply of vegetable delicacies was sent with them. So long as mere size and weight are considered in awarding prizes, exhibitors can not be blamed for meeting the requirements. The most important reforms needed in the management of our Fairs are: first, greater care in making up the schedules of premiums; and second, greater care in the selection of the judges who will award the prizes. The points which characterize purity of breed in a sheep, pig, or other farm animal, are of far more importance than the weight at a given age. But how many of the hastily made up "Boards of Judges," as these are usually appointed, know anything about "points" in the class of animals they are to judge? Small societies can not usually adopt the plan of the New York State Agricultural Society, but they should approach it as nearly as may be. An award by this Society means something. The judges in every department are carefully selected long in advance of the time of the fair: they are written to, and their acceptance secured, and the expense of their attendance is paid by the Society. This liberal action enables the Society to command the services of the very best men in each department; and being selected long in advance, they have time to confer with one another, and decide definitely upon a plan of action.—*American Agriculturist.*

### What Sheep to Grow—The Downs.

The Down breeds are preferred for mutton. The Southdown, which ranks first, is of medium size, with short legs; a fine head; smooth, round, deep body; and broad back and quarters. It is hardy, active, a quick feeder, matures early, and is easily fattened at any age. The ewes are prolific, and a flock of one hundred will average annually from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty lambs, as they often produce twins and sometimes triplets.

The size, activity, and hardiness of these sheep specially fit them for short, rough pastures, on which they will thrive fairly where larger sheep would scarcely keep alive. They do better on the great Western plains than other mutton sheep, as they are more industrious in digging under the snow for grass in winter, and thrive the best of all breeds, West or East, on arid or rocky pastures. While thus exposed they are less liable to disease than any other breed, save the tough Merino, and can be kept in large flocks. The Southdown buck, crossed with common ewes, make a great improvement in the offspring over their dams, and the mutton finds much quicker sale at higher prices than the common sorts. A first cross by long-wooled rams on lean grade Merino ewes may be preferable, in order to give more fat; but it is best to cross ewes thus produced with Southdown rams, to ensure a larger proportion of juicy, savory flesh. Yet, on the larger common ewes, and especially those sired with long-wooled blood, the Southdown male cross is decidedly superior.

The Southdown fleece is abundant, of medium fineness, and preferable to any other for certain kinds of goods. The wool, therefore, sells very quickly and at fair prices; but while the wool contributes largely to the profit, mutton is the great thing with these sheep. Early lambs can be more easily obtained from Southdown ewes than from any other, and these bring high prices from March to June. Though more difficult and expensive to produce such lambs at the North during these months, at the South it may be cheaply and easily done, and be a source of wealth to those who judiciously breed and rear them for Northern markets.

### Glanders in Horses.

Every horse owner is more or less acquainted with that loathsome disease, the glanders, and every one should be aware that it is both contagious and fatal, not only to horses, but also to mankind. The fact that the disease has this day baffled all treatment, is sufficient reason why the detection of glanders in a stable is always looked upon as serious. If the disease always assumed the same characters, if every glandered horse presented the three special symptoms essentially belonging to it, namely, the greenish, sticky, and at times bloody discharge from the nose, the hard, painless, and adherent swollen glands at the jaws, and, above all, the peculiar and characteristic ulcerations of the mucous membrane upon the cartilage of the cavities of the nose, there would be no difficulties in recognizing the disease, and condemning the animal thus afflicted as most dangerous. But this is not always the case. This disease assumes many forms. Sometimes only a slight glandular enlargement, again discharges from the nostrils, while in a third animal neither of these will exist, and only small ulcers will be detected in the upper angle of the nostrils. Still the animal is just as dangerous as if it showed all the symptoms fully developed; in fact, even more dangerous, for, while in this condition, it may apparently be in perfect health, its skin presenting nothing unusual to the ordinary observer. The horse may remain in good condition, feel as well as ever, be able to do its work, and remain thus for months, and communicate the glanders to many animals who may come in contact with it. It is necessary to detect the disease at the start, and for this no one should be better qualified than the regular Veterinarian; he who has by his studies become familiar with the different aspects of the disease. If once detected, there must be no hesitation; certainty of the existence of the disease should mean death to the animal affected. Unless it is killed, most serious, even fatal consequences, may follow.

The duty of the owner of an animal in a suspicious condition is, to have it examined at once, if there is no doubt about the disease, the horse must be at once destroyed. If there is doubt, it should be isolated and rather than wait for the development of all the symptoms, which may take a long time, inoculation of the matter from the discharge can be made on an old horse, a dog, or a rabbit, but still better on an old mule or a donkey. This inoculation will produce glanders, no matter how small the quantity of the virus if taken from a glandered horse.

### FAIR BATHERS AT BAY.

How an Untrained Dog Interfered with their Sport.

"Yes, sir," said Prof. Thomas W. Tobin to a Louisville *Commercial* reporter, "Crab Orchard Springs, Ky., is a very pleasant spot and there is a nice company of summer idlers there. I have been there some days, and I feel much invigorated. You cannot find a bar-room, but you can have drinks sent to your rooms. By the way, there was almost a fatal case of mistaken identity up there last week during the hot spell. Several of the most popular ladies of the Springs concluded to go bathing one afternoon. They took the greatest precautions as to their destination and safety from intrusion. They took Jim Robinson along to guard them—Jim, by the way, being a dog named after the late popular manager. They took along also some light netting and nun's veiling to improvise into bathing suits, there being no suits discovered at the Springs. "Well, it went along very nicely for a while. Jim sat upon the bank and watched the bathing horizon. The ladies, having pinned on the light draperies, made a dive into the pellucid waters. When they came to the surface and walked in the shallow water there was a change in Jim's demeanour. Jim had been instructed to keep men away, and when the ladies emerged the wet draperies were clinging so closely that Jim's mind became disturbed, and, having strict orders he took them for men and setting up a bark like a wolf's, went sailing fiercely into the water after the ladies. They tried to quiet him, but he snapped at them so viciously that they ran shrieking out of the water and up the bank. By this time some gentlemen fishing at a distance had become alarmed, and came rushing up to see what was the matter. This produced fresh screams; and Jim's barking fire was divided. The ladies hid behind trees and with difficulty and much disgust succeeded in persuading the gentlemen that they were merely romping with Jim. However, there was no more bathing that day and mosquito-bathing suits are at a discount at the Springs."

### Stopping a Paper Does not Stop the Paper.

Ever since newspapers have been published, certain individuals have attempted to squelch them by ordering their own particular copy discontinued. This has probably happened in the experience of every publisher at various times. Every editor who is manly and straightforward is apt to publish something in the course of every year which does not accord with the opinions of some of his readers, or perhaps, a majority of them. Under our system of free thought and speech, this is expected and cheerfully tolerated by all reasonable people. But, occasionally, some one considers himself personally aggrieved by something published in his paper and hastens to "stop" it, thinking he has thereby given a retaliating blow to the publisher. There he labors under a mistaken idea. If the editor is consistent and guided by principle, he will listen to the complaints of his subscriber and give him the benefit of a reply to the offensive article; and furthermore, he is pretty sure to secure the friendship of two others by his consistency while he is losing that of the offended party. At any rate, the support of any paper—from the largest city daily down to the smallest country weekly—is not derived from its subscription list; a half-dozen subscribers more or less, are of little account to any publisher, as his support comes from the patronage of his advertising columns and job department. Of course, all editors desire as large a reading audience as possible, but their hearts are not broken by the loss of one or even half a dozen. Therefore, if you have a grievance, go to the editor like a man and explain it to him. Ten times out of ten, you will feel better about it, and have your trouble much more satisfactorily settled than if you hasten to secure his ill-will.—*Woodstock (Ill.) Independent.*

### Volcano of Krakatoa.

Before the last fatal eruption of the volcano of Krakatoa it would seem that the mountain for some time past had been in a state of violent activity. The following graphic account of its appearance was supplied by an officer of the *Almora* to the *Brisbane Courier*:—"The volcano was on the island of Krakatoa, at the entrance of the Strait of Sunda, and one magnificent blast of light was proceeding from its height. Higher and higher the blast seemed to mount as we drew closer to its base, while the sound had now become one continuous roar, like hundreds of blasts from some mighty furnace, and a volume of black smoke extended for miles from it, like a funeral pile. As we passed through, some of the fine dust and strong sulphurous fumes of the subterranean upheavals got into our eyes and filled our throats, causing us to keep under the awnings till we passed—glad to leave the island on our lee. We could then admire its splendid upheaval and listen to its mighty roar without fear. There seemed to be a strange vibration in the water and ship while we were passing. The flames looked grand, as, leaping high into the heavens with a mighty roar, they sent their sulphurous fumes apparently miles upward, and then, dying out till they seemed expended, would leap upward with renewed force and fury. This continued till the ship took us further and further away, the sound got weaker, and the light soon appeared like a lighthouse on the shore. We passed about three or four miles from it, and had the wind been blowing from the southward, I dare say we should have felt considerable annoyance from it. As it was it only gave us a grand volcanic spectacle that will never be forgotten."

### An Engineer's Reminiscences.

"Well, I've had a little experience in running an engine," said a long specimen of the genus Yankee, putting one elbow on the bar counter and holding his whisky straight up to the light, "and if it would amuse you I'll give you a yarn or two. "I've been there myself. I used to run an engine from New York to Philadelphia." "Oh, you did," said the Yankee. "Well, that just amounts to nothing. I've been a special engineer for the last ten years, and there ain't a mile of track between here and Frisco I haven't travelled over. You see us specials are obliged to be ready for anything at a moment's notice, and when we travel we just get right over the ground, and don't you forget it. "I've made some pretty good time myself," said the second engineer. "I took a train through from New York to Philadelphia in 80 minutes."

"Oh, that's a child's play," said the first engineer. "Why, man, I've made that run myself, and with one piston rod gone at that. It was a lively trip, and don't you forget it. I'd just got back from a special run up through the coal regions, when word came that one of the big guns of the company wished to start at once for Philadelphia. I knew what that meant, so I jumped aboard long-legged Jim, hitched a construction car behind the tender and a drawing-room coach behind that, and reported for duty. I knew my engine, and I ran up forty pounds of steam more nor she was marked to carry. When the word came I let everything slide and the old boy just jumped into the air. Then he settled down to his work. Everything was clear in front of us, and I let him out for all he was worth at the start. In less'n five minutes you couldn't count the telegraph poles, they flew by us so fast. I had two firemen, and I just made 'em earn their passage from the word go. Old Jim must have eat up two tons o' coal inside ten miles."

"What!" ejaculated the second engineer. "Sure!" said the first engineer. "And we hadn't been out of the station fifteen before every blasted boiler pipe was red hot, and we had to keep flooding the cab with water to keep from burning the darn thing up. Oh, we was just gettin' there my boy, and I didn't let up a pound. Every time we took a curve the outside wheels would be at least a foot up in the air, and once or twice the tender jumped clean on to the ties, but old Jim would yank her back again, and—"

"Ain't you kind of stretching a point?" asked the second engineer.

"Not a bit of it," said the first engineer. "Why afore we was half way to Philadelphia both o' those firemen was down on their knees praying, and I had to feed myself until I swore 'em back to their senses again. Well, everything went well enough the first two-thirds of the run, and I was just a-whistling to myself over the record I was pulling up, when there came a report like a rifle, and I knew one of the blasted piston rods had busted. There was nothin' to do but stop, and I lost ten minutes fixin' up. The big gun left the coach and came down to see what was up. 'What's to be done?' said he, 'I've got one piston-rod left,' said I, 'and I'll take you through on time.' He knew me, and he just lit a fresh cigar and walked back to the coach as contented as a lamb. Well, I just set those praying firemen to work for all they was worth, and I had her up to 60 pounds over the limit in less'n no time. Then I let her slide. Lord Harry, I thought old Jim would jerk the stuff out of everything behind him. We just played hop scotch, and I don't believe we touched the rails four or five times a mile. I knew it was a hundred dollar check or nothin', and I was after that check. Well, those firemen got to prayin' worse 'n ever, and I had to swear I'd throw 'em overboard afore they'd come to time. I tell you we was just movin'. Why, the towns got runnin' all together, and we'd no more 'n get a squirt at one station afore we was five miles past the next one—"

"Here! here!" said the second engineer, "that's laying it on too strong."

"True as you're here," said the first engineer. "I'd introduce you to the prayin' firemen, but they cut the business after that run, and I kinder lost sight of 'em. Well, we got within ten miles of Philadelphia, and I begun to stop her."

"Stop her?" "Yes; I knew I couldn't stop her inside o' ten miles, and I didn't fetch it at that, for when we ran into the station we smashed in the bumpers and ripped up about twenty feet o' the platform before old long-legged Jim would agree the run was over; but I got the check," and the Yankee engineer thoughtfully drained his glass, as his friend ordered the barkeeper to "set 'em up again."—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

### Invention of an Electric Gun.

One of the most interesting novelties at the Vienna International Exhibition is an electric gun. The powder is fired by means of a piece of platinum in the cartridge, and the electric current necessary for heating the platinum is obtained from a little accumulator, which must be worn in a belt especially devised for the purpose. Besides the accumulator and the belt, a glove and a shoulder strap are necessary. The glove is worn on the left hand, and is connected with one pole of the accumulator, the strap with the other. All this would, it must be confessed, be a rather formidable addition to a soldier's accoutrements, and one is hardly surprised to hear that the inventors do not expect their patent to be immediately adopted in all the European armies.

Meanwhile they point out that the electric gun affords several advantages besides the charm of novelty, which ought to commend it to the sportsman. In the first place, it is said to be very economical; and what new application of electricity is ever said to be anything else—at first? There is no great saving on the gun or the cartridges, but then only a quarter of the ordinary charge of powder is necessary. Moreover, the gun is economical of time and trouble. The cartridges serve many times over, and there is none of the bother of taking off the old caps. But the crowning merit which is claimed for the electric gun is that it is warranted never to "kick." If this warranty be really true, the application of electricity to sport ought not to be long delayed.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Jack Frost doesn't say anything, but he indulges in freezing pranks.



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