

FOR THE FARMER

Dairy and Stock Topics.

Gentleness will help to fill the milk pail.

Oil meal and roots make sleek cattle. There are said to be fifty-two kinds of sheep in the world.

The pig is no exception to the rule that all domestic animals require salt.

More butter is spoiled by being overworked than by not being worked enough.

A cream thermometer will save backache; sixty-four degrees is the correct thing.

Cows become very fond of beanstalks, after a little use of them, and prefer them to good hay.

When the cream gets too thick in the churn, add some warm water (not hot) to float the butter, and it will come sooner.

When corn stalks are fed, cover should be fed with them, or cottonseed meal. Timothy and clover mixed is better than clear clover.

Sheep should not be allowed to run in muddy yards or be driven through the mud to and from the field. Such treatment may engender foot-rot.

A writer asserts that after 35 years' experience in Iowa he has never known a mortgage foreclosed on a dairy or stock farm.

The best butter ever produced from a churn would have been wretched stuff if the cream had been allowed to absorb odors from the cellar or kitchen.

A good dip for young lambs infested with ticks is made of a mixture of one gallon soft soap, six pounds grease, one pint crude carbolic acid, all boiled in ten gallons of water, with nine gallons of cold water added.

Horses that are troubled with worms may be safely and speedily relieved by giving them a small dose of turpentine two or three times in their feed. It nauseates the worms so that they lose their grip on the intestines and pass through the excretions of the stomach.

Breeds of cows strongly predisposed to milk production will sometimes give milk before the heifers have had their first calf. The tendency is increased where the young calves run together, in which case, unless precautions are taken, they are almost sure to learn to suck each other.

To fatten a horse, mix a bushel of flax seed, one of barley, one of oats, one of corn, and grind the mixture together. Feed two or three quarts of the mixture three times a day, mingled with a peck of oat hay and straw. If the horse eats readily, let the quantity be gradually increased until he will eat four or six quarts at every feeding three times a day.

A recipe for a small cream cheese is as follows: Take one pint thick cream, mix a little salt, according to taste; put it into a wet, scalded cheese cloth, tie it, and hang up for two or three days; then change again into another cloth for a day or two, and put a weight on it, by which time it will be ready for use.

If you do not get as good a price for your butter as some one else does you may count that there are nine chances out of ten that the fault lies with you and not with the purchaser, remarks an exchange. Really choice butter is not so plenty but that any one who makes a really first-class article can easily obtain the highest market price. It is very natural for all to think that their butter is just as good as their neighbor's, but if the neighbor's brings a higher price it will pay to try and improve the quality a little.

The farmer's cow, the one which supplies his family with the milk and butter he uses in his family, is seldom, if ever, a thoroughbred one; she has no registered pedigree; she is not pampered and pushed up to that extreme which is dangerous alike to health and profit, but she is usually a good sized and good natured animal, generally with a good share of Alderney, Jersey or Guernsey blood in her veins. She is a milker of more than average merit, while her milk is rich in butter. She drops fine calves every year with becoming regularity, and does not stay dry and unprofitable two or three months out of every twelve. She carries only a moderate amount of flesh, has a fairly large and not meaty udder, with clean and good sized teats. She has a bony and intelligent head, soft hair, fine skin, fair horns and a heavy and well developed rump. Her skin is soft and velvety and of that yellow tinge which denotes butter qualities. The inside of her ears, as well as the base of her horns and just back of the forelegs, on the body, are heavily tinged with yellow.

Ploughing in the Fall.

That depends upon circumstances; we believe in the idea of pulverizing the soil by all possible means, but if a field is so situated that accumulations of surface water are to flow over it and follow the course of the furrows, and in its passage carry with it large quantities of the finer portions of the soil to no one knows where, then we should say omit ploughing until spring; or again, if the soil is of that peculiar character that its surface, on becoming dry, is carried away by the winds of winter, as is frequently observed, then we should say again, omit fall ploughing. We like the idea expressed in an article we recently read upon the subject, which was, to plough in very narrow land so that between the dead furrows there is little more than an elevated ridge of earth, causing the dead furrows to be carefully cleaned out with a shovel, the loose earth being thrown upon the ridges; in this way the dead furrows serve as drains for the free passage of the water in winter, and in the spring the soil can be worked almost as soon as the frost is out of the ground. This would be especially

desirable when any particularly early crop is to be planted, and earliness is one of the important factors of success.

Oats and Peas.

Judging from the practice of many farmers, and, in fact, we might say of all within the circle of our observation, the real feeding value of the combination of oats and peas has been lost sight of. We remember distinctly in our younger days, how the farmers placed great reliance upon ground oats and peas as a fattening food for swine, and how essential it was believed to be to sow a patch to be used exclusively for feeding purposes. Regarding the proportion of each kind of seed employed, our memory fails us, but we call to mind how the oats would grow and afford the support for the peas, which were thus supported and kept off of the ground; and the oat and pea patch often contributed a fine mess of peas for the family dinner. When ripe they were cut with the scythes, handled carefully, and when thoroughly dried taken to the barn to be threshed, to be ground for early feed, which could be provided some time before corn would be sufficiently dried for grinding, and either swine fattened very rapidly under the oat and pea feed, or else our powers of comprehension are at fault. But in these times it is an exceedingly rare thing to see a field of oats and peas, or, in this section, to hear of peas being grown for feeding purposes. It is possible that some of the practices of the past might be pursued with benefit in these days of advancement.

Hunting the Porpoise.

The capture of a school of porpoises is exciting in the extreme, and involves enough apparent danger to set the blood in lively circulation. When the school is discovered the steamer puts off, paying out a large line, nearly a mile long and some twenty-four feet deep. With this the school is enclosed as far as possible, the net cutting them off from the open sea.

At the wings and bag of the sieve small surfboats are stationed, whose crews endeavor to frighten the porpoise out of their purpose when they attempt a combined charge upon the net. Such a charge is fatal to any net if persisted in, for the huge animal, weighing often a thousand pounds each can burst through anything in the shape of a net when once they give their minds to it, and the only safeguard is to distract them and divert their attention. In so large an enclosure they have, of course, a wide semi-circular space, in which they can swim about freely, and a general panic can usually be avoided.

Slowly and steadily the great sieve is drawn in toward the beach, and when near enough a second smaller sieve, made of quarter-inch line, is brought into play inside the larger one. With this a few porpoises at a time are cut off from the main school and hauled by main force to the beach, where they are despatched with lances and knives. It is no boy's play hauling this small sieve ashore through the surf.

No part of the animal goes to waste. The hide, when properly tanned—and the process is a long one—makes excellent and costly leather; the oil which is tried out from his fat is the best known to commerce for lubricating purposes; his flesh, fresh cooked, is well esteemed by those who like it, and when smoked, like beef, is a delicacy. The rest of him, by a simpler process, converted into a fertilizer. Upon the whole, the porpoise seems to have a future of usefulness before him.

Fatal Quarrel Over a Cow.

On Thursday in Newark, Wirt county, W. Va., a cow belonging to James P. Buffington, a farmer, broke down a panel of fence surrounding the garden of August Kiteau, and entering the garden, destroyed the growing vegetables. Kiteau drove the cow out with a club just as the owner was passing. The two men, after bandying epithets for a few moments, engaged in a rough and tumble fight in the course of which Buffington was repeatedly struck with the club in the hands of Kiteau. Several men, including a Justice of the Peace, interfered and separated the men, but Buffington drew a dirk knife and rushed at his antagonist. Kiteau struck him on the head with his club, knocking him down. Buffington sprang to his feet again, and stabbed Kiteau seven times in various parts of the body, leaving him in a dying condition, but not before he had again clubbed Buffington, breaking four of his ribs, and fracturing his skull.

All this time the spectators were endeavoring to stop the fight, but their efforts were unsuccessful until the two men sank to the ground exhausted and covered with blood from head to foot. They were taken to their homes, where both are reported to have died.

A Relic of a Lost Steamer.

Eighteen months ago the steamer Manistee went down in a gale on Lake Superior and all on board perished. On a recent Sunday afternoon a party of trout fishers, while angling up Fish Creek, which runs into the lake at Ashland, Wis., some distance from its mouth, found a sealed bottle containing a piece of paper on which was written:

"On board Manistee. Terrible storm to-night. May not live to see morning. Yours to the world,

JOHN MCKAY."

McKay was Captain of the Manistee. The people of Ashland pronounce the handwriting on the slip to be his without doubt. None of the bodies of those on board were ever recovered, but stray pieces of the vessel were found soon after the disaster.

There is a youth up-town who is so lazy that the only work he does is when laboring under a mistake.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

Vast Preparations and Little Mo. e.

The Panama Canal is in such a state that its ultimate completion is beyond question. But it appears equally certain that the present company never can complete it. Three-fourths of the estimated cost of the canal has already been spent, and the result is a mere scratch across the Isthmus. But the preparation for the actual work of digging the canal, the clearings, borings, soundings, surveys, houses, barracks, hospitals, dredges, excavators, etc., are complete. The building of the Suez Canal was child's play compared to the building of this one. There nature seemed to have intended that the waters of the Mediterranean and the Red Sea should mingle. Here she has opposed every possible obstacle to the marriage of the Atlantic and Pacific. The configuration and geological structure of the country, the deadly climate, the intense heat, the difference in tides, the Chagres, alternately a brook and a devastating torrent, the thickly matted jungle, all conspire to render the digging of a canal across this isthmus one of the most difficult pieces of engineering work ever attempted by man, if not absolutely the most difficult. It is a common saying that every tie of the Panama Railroad represented a human life. Every foot of the Panama Canal will represent not only a life, but a fortune as well. The work of preparation for the actual digging of the canal has met with great obstacles. The soundings in the section between Pedro McGill and Gorgona I believe never would have been made but for the indomitable energy of Mr. Burt, now general superintendent of the Panama Railroad, who transported on men's backs, through a before impassable jungle, the machinery necessary for the work. In going along the line of the canal one sees to-day the perfect state of preparation and the utter absence of anything like a canal at a glance. In those pretty villas on the hillsides live the chiefs of sections. Leaning on their spades or loitering beside the huge excavators are a few scattered men. Everywhere are idle excavators or empty cars bearing evidences of long disuse. The songless birds drowse in the shadow of the drooping palms. The handful of sleepy laborers doze in the shade or throw a few shovelfuls of earth to one side with a weary motion. In short, in going over the canal route one gets the impression that work is practically stopped; and from the best information to be got at here I believe such to be the case. The last revolution here, of course, has had something to do with this state of affairs, for when bullets fly, spades drop. But revolutions have their benefits, too, for they afford the canal company a reasonable excuse for giving up the work; and give it up they must before long or get a large amount of new capital.

The greatest difficulties of construction have not as yet been grappled with at all. At Culebra the summit, where a cut 200 feet deep will be made to the water level, only about fifteen feet have been excavated. The great dam which it is proposed to build between the hills of Obispo and Santa Cruz to control the waters of the Chagres has not been begun, nor has spade been put to all those sluices and channels which are to be built to carry off the waters of the turbulent river in the rainy season.

An Indian Dude.

The Calgary Herald says: Give Bull's Head, chief of all the Sarcees—a tribe numbering ten men, 57 women and several children—a cigar, put him on the platform of I. G. Baker's store and he's there every time. With his left hand resting on his left hip, his body curved back like a Grecian bow on the wrong side, and his right hand daintily toying with his Havana, he is an Indian exquisite—a dude of the first water. This was apparent on Tuesday last, when he brought in his tribe to have a grub dance for the benefit of the pale warriors. Bull's Head was in a state of glory, which he had not visited him since Inspector McIlree took him by the necktie and snatched him off to the guard-house. His men squatted round in a circle, the tom-tom in the midst and the fun commenced, while the 9th Battalion and the men of the 92nd, who were yet in town, gathered near and looked in wonder at the heathen fight. There were several ladies there also, and no doubt the redskins reminded themselves slyly that since Poundmaker had won a white wife, their turn might come. After the grub dance was over, Col. Amyot put the 9th Battalion through the bayonet exercise for the benefit of the dusky visitors. The Sarcees had never seen a bayonet exercise before and their eyes protruded at the sight to such an extent that they would have served readily as hat-pegs. Mr. Begg laughed heartily. After the dance at the fort, the braves proceeded to the corner of I. G. Baker's and went through a very similar performance. W. Bowen brought out some tea, tobacco and biscuits to them, and the poor creatures lost all their Indian decorum in their delight at the welcome presents.

A Lion's Suicide.

The only recorded attempt of a lioness to devour herself is reported from Dublin. The lioness was in captivity, and constituted part of the show in a zoological garden. One morning it was discovered that six inches of her tail had been gnawed off. She was watched, and was seen in the course of the day to gnaw off as much more of her tail as she could get at, whereafter she began to eat her fore paw. She was shot. One explanation offered of the singular conduct of the animal is that she pined in captivity, and deliberately set about to destroy herself. Another is that she was afflicted with hysteria, and was not responsible for what she did. It being a first case, it is hardly reasonable to demand a positive statement of the cause. More may be learned when another lioness makes a similar attempt.

France and China.

The treaty of peace which is said to have been concluded between France and China brings to an end a war which has lasted about three years. The conflict has been one of conquest on the part of France, and one of resistance to French encroachment on the part of China.

On the eastern side of the peninsula of Siam is the long and narrow strip of territory which is called Cochin China. The upper part of this strip comprises a kingdom called Annam. It is this region which France has occupied, and which has been the seat of the war, which, it is to be hoped, has now ceased.

The war was the result of a long series of events. As long as two hundred years ago the French had a project of establishing colonies and settlements on the coast of Cochin China, as they had already done on that of Hindocstan.

A century later—just about a hundred years ago—the French King made a treaty with a king of Annam who had been driven from his throne, whereby the King was restored, and certain places on the coast were ceded to France. But the French waited seventy years before availing themselves of the privilege thus granted to them.

In 1858 they made their claim to the territory ceded, but were resisted by the ruler of Annam. They sent a naval expedition thither, and bombarded some places on the coast, but did not long remain. Three years later, however, the French troops who were returning from the Chinese war took possession of a part of the peninsula.

This conquest was gradually added to as years went on. A French protectorate was established in Cambodia, and later the French arms were carried as far as Hanoi, the principal stronghold on the Red River, which flows through Annam.

About ten years ago the French made a treaty with Annam, by which certain commercial rights were conceded to them, and by which they were permitted to establish garrisons and trading posts at various points.

This treaty lasted for eight years. But in 1882 the French entered upon vigorous operations, with a view to extending their Annamese possessions. A force of five hundred men advanced upon the Red River, and seized Hanoi. The country was at this time overrun by marauding bands called "Black flags" who were called on by the Annam chief to aid in resisting the French.

But in spite of the Black Flags, the French retained their hold on Hanoi. The Annamese were now aroused to desperate defence. They refused to allow French troops to land on their coast, and proceeded to the aid of their comrades at Hanoi, whereupon France began war on a larger scale.

Troops and war vessels were sent out, and Admiral Courbet captured Hue, the capital and chief port of Annam, in the summer of 1883. Victory after victory attended the French advance. The two strongholds of Sontag and Bac Ninh, in the delta of the Red River, were captured, and the French had now approached the frontier which divides China proper from Annam.

The Chinese Empire has always claimed to be the feudal superior of Annam, and looked with jealousy upon the French occupation of that country. But the Chinese did not interfere in the struggle until the French attacked Bac Ninh. There a Chinese force joined the Black Flags in defence of the place; and so an informal war came about between France and China.

The French followed the Chinese troops as they retreated to Lang Son, which is a hundred miles north-east of Bac Ninh, and nearer the Chinese frontier.

But now a treaty of peace, which was soon to come to naught, was concluded between France and China. Scarcely had it been ratified, when a misunderstanding as to its terms arose. A French force advanced to take possession of a fort which China had not agreed to cede. The French, being repulsed, demanded a heavy indemnity, which China refused to pay, and thereupon the French seized several points on the Island of Formosa, which lies off the Chinese coast.

Later, they succeeded in taking Lang Son; but were again driven out of it by a superior Chinese force. Here the military operations came to an end. The general result of the war has been to add the extent of the French possessions on the peninsula. They have annexed Cambodia, obtained control of a large part of the Red River Valley, and secured a portion of Burmese Siam.

It can scarcely be doubted that sooner or later French ambition will seek further conquests on the Siamese peninsula. The result of the lodgment of France there may, perhaps, be the acquisition of Siam itself.

A Narrow Escape

A nurse in Munich, according to a story which comes from there, set her little charge on the grass, in order that it might amuse itself by rolling about and getting green stains on its frock. Suddenly a large eagle swooped by the face of the policeman who was talking to the nurse, and attacked the baby. Quick as a flash the nurse threw her shawl at the eagle. The shawl settled over the noble but unscrupulous bird in such a way that it not only blinded him, but prevented him from using his wings, and the policeman was enabled easily to take him in. When the King of Bavaria heard the story he sent a handsome present to the nurse, and ordered the eagle to be sent to the menagerie. No distinction was conferred upon the policeman, although the misdemeanor of his talking to the nurse was overlooked, nor upon the baby, whose luck in escaping from the eagle was considered sufficient.

We want to ask one question: "Can a person go around a square?"

A BATTLE WITH SNAKES.

Perilous Adventures of a Party of Young Men.

Last Sunday morning a party of three young men, W. P. Hall and two brothers named Westfall, had an encounter with a lot of rattlesnakes and blacksnakes at Rose's Switch. The locality is wild and romantic. It is in the centre of a bluestone country, and every spring the quarrymen in blasting the rock come across large quantities of snakes which have ensconced themselves in the bluestone ledges to escape the rigors of the long winter months. They emerge in the spring, and after basking in the hot sun for a few days they leave the spot for food and water. Just above Rose's Switch is a thick ledge or succession of rock known to almost every quarryman as the snake den. The young men had this place in view when they started out. Providing themselves with stout green clubs they advanced cautiously upon several large rattlers found sunning themselves, and quickly dispatched them, not, however, before they had given the peculiar rattling noise for which they are so well known. This had the effect of bringing out countless numbers of reptiles, and before the young men were aware of it they were surrounded on all sides by a hissing rattling lot of snakes that made them shudder with fear. Fortunately they had on stout boots, and the snakes were not in a good condition to bite and do harm as they would be later in the season. The number of snakes kept increasing to such an extent that the young men in their terror maintain that they must have encountered 150 or 200 snakes of the rattlesnake and blacksnake varieties. Finally it was noticed that the snakes were fighting among themselves, on inspection it was seen that the black snakes were attacking the rattlers, and vice versa, both being warmed up to their work by the beating they had received from the young men. Although blacksnakes and rattlers mingle with each other during the long, cold winter months, yet on the approach of spring they separate after a deadly combat, wherein the blacksnakes are sometime victorious and the rattlers on other occasions. A spitz dog which followed the young men was an object of especial hatred, and was soon covered by the reptiles, which wound themselves about his body and bit him to such an extent that he swelled to twice his natural size. After a fight of about fifteen minutes the men had everything their own way, and over fifty were gathered up and carried away as trophies of the fray. They were sold to an old medicine-man, who extracts the oil from the fat to sell to persons afflicted with rheumatism, neuralgia, sprain, and other ailments. As high as \$5 per ounce is paid by those who believe in the wonderful curative qualities of the snake oil. The young men cut off the rattles of many of the snakes, some having as high as fifteen or twenty, and the snakes ranged in size from sixteen inches to six feet, one large blacksnake, a perfect specimen, measuring a trifle over six feet. Had it not been for the fight between the rival snakes the young men might have been dangerously bitten.

The Money of Tonquin.

The currency of the country is the best indication of the poverty of its people. The only money of Tonquin is the sapak, a small coin of base metal resembling the Chinese cash but only one-fourth as valuable. Forty-three of them are worth one cent. There are therefore 4,300 in a dollar, which weighs over 20 pounds. Ten dollars make a heavy load for the stout wheelbarrows which fill the place of drays in America in doing the heavy city transportation, and the pay of a regiment in the old days of Tong-duc rule sufficed to load a good-sized junk. The population of the cities is somewhat habituated to the Mexican dollar and the silver and copper coins of Hong Kong, the Straits settlements and Cochin China, but in the country nothing but the sapak is current. The rustics know no other coin. Wages are necessarily low with such a standard. In Hong Kong coolies on the public works are paid 20 cents per day. In Hanoi, for more arduous labour in constructing streets, quays, wharves, canals and bridges, where they have to remain all day in mud and water, from 5 cents to 10 cents, which, as they would scarcely earn in the fields more than that in a week or a month, does not seem an inadequate recompense. Boys or men employed as cooks or body servants are paid from \$1 to \$5 a month, the last amount only for the best skilled labour, and it is considered princely. The advent of the French is furnishing an extraordinary market for certain kinds of manufactured goods, for curios and for farm produce, which is in great demand with the officers and soldiers. Still prices rule extraordinarily low when compared with any European standard. The money gained in trade or earned in labor is squandered at once by this most improvident people in the world. It is often only by paying small wages and avoiding gifts that a person can secure the desired service. If the stipend is thoughtlessly raised or a "cumshaw" is given for duty unusually well performed, the recipient is too apt to disappear, not to appear again till the money has been uselessly spent and he has been driven to hopeless beggary.

An Artesian Well.

Charleston, South Carolina, hopes to have by August next the deepest Artesian well in the world. If it fulfills expectations it will be two thousand feet deep, will have a diameter of at least six inches at the bottom, and will yield for million gallons of water a day—enough for the ample supply of the whole city. Work upon it is just about beginning. There are manufacturers in rocky New England who would bless their stars to be able to sink such a well in so short a time.

Cold feet—Two feet of snow.