

AGRICULTURAL.

Raising Calves.

Frequently becomes desirable to have a cow suckle two calves, one of them not her own, on account perhaps of her being an ugly milker, but giving milk enough to support two. Cows generally do not take kindly to strange calves, but this can be obviated by placing her in a wide stall, tying her short and the letting both calves in. The attendant should stand between the strange calf and the cow's head and not let her see or smell it. As soon as the calves are done they should be taken away. Do this two or three times and she will have become used to this double duty and her own milk will have passed through the strange calf, when she cannot detect by scent the fraud which has been practiced upon her and she will then mother both of them complacently.

A neighbor once made twice the money by veal farming that he could by butter-making. He engaged the aid of a village butcher who traveled about the section for fat stock to pick up newly born calves for him as needed. He knew when this man would have a fat veal, so when he came for it he brought one which had been dropped recently to take its place. He procured many of these for nothing and others for a few dimes. The veal calf was made to wear a blanket for a few of its last days and this was shifted to the new calf. It was kept from the cow until her udder became full of milk and painful, when the youngster was led in and took his food with no trouble. After a few transactions most cows will receive readily any calf under any circumstances.

Points for Cheesemakers.

As the price of butter becomes lower more persons indulge in the luxury of good old-fashioned home made cheese. From the following points for cheesemakers by Prof. J. W. Robertson some suggestions may be gathered that will help in turning out a good article:

Let the milk be well matured by heating before the rennet is added. The addition of sour whey, to hasten the maturity, is objectionable and should never be practiced. Old milk which has become well ripened and nearly sour may be added but lopped or thick milk should never be used. More rennet is necessary for milk from fresh cows than from others. The more rennet is used the more moisture will be retained in the cheese, under similar conditions of making. For spring cheese rennet ought to thicken the milk for cutting in 15 to 20 minutes and a temperature of 15° to 20° is required. For summer and fall cheese forty-five minutes must be allowed for the same process with milk in good condition. The raising of the milk to 98° increases the favorable conditions and aids rennet action.

The horizontal knife should be used first lengthwise and followed by the perpendicular knife crosswise. After the whey has separated enough to half cover the curd, the mesh of the knives should be so close that the curd strings should be enough, except in the case of a quick curd, which should be cut unusually fine. The knives must be moved fast enough to prevent much disturbance of the curd by pushing. After the coagulation is perfect the curd should be cut finer during the late fall than during the summer. Stir the curd slowly and gently at once after the cutting is complete. Heat should not be applied until fifteen minutes after the stirring is begun. Hot water doesn't scorch the curd. The temperature must be raised gradually to 98°.

The curd particles must be made so dry before the development of acid that after being pressed in the hand they fall apart when slightly disturbed. When the hot iron test shows fine hairs from one-fourth to one-eighth of an inch long, the whey should be removed. If acid be discernible by the hot iron test before the curd is properly formed the whey should be immediately removed and the stirring continued until the firm condition is brought about. Tenderness in the body of cheese or pastiness is caused by too much moisture in the curd while the acid is developing.

When the curd is ready for cutting for salting is best learned by experience. The degree of change has taken place when the curd feels mellow, velvety and greasy, smells like new made butter from sour cream and tastes aromatic rather than sour. When curd is greasy or very porous, saving should be allowed to go further before it is arrested by cutting or salting. If the curd be too moist or soft it should be cut or ground at earlier stage and hand stirred some time before salt is added to it. It is generally beneficial to the curd to stir it ten minutes after cutting before salting. A maximum quantity of salt for April and early May cheese is 1 1/2 pounds to 1,000 pounds of milk; 2 to 2 1/2 pounds is right for summer or fairly dry curds and 3 to 3 1/2 pounds during October and November. Salt has a tendency to dry curd and cheese and thus retard curing.

The curd must be hooped and pressed within twenty to forty-five minutes after the salt is stirred in. Pressure must be applied lightly at first, and gradually increased. The curd cutter or grinder must be thoroughly cleaned every day. Bad flavors are given cheese by neglecting this precaution, and the same is true of other unclean dairy utensils. Curing is affected by fermentation. Heat up to 70° is favorable and cold under 60° is unfavorable for its operation.

Sheep and Lambs.

May 1 we have fifty-four lambs, a very bad showing. Cause.—Buck when first turned with ewes was very fat and did not commence serving until September. Lambs were small and weak, several being dead when first dropped. Too many old ewes were bred. In spite of good care, they were weakened by perspiration and ticks, so that when lambs dropped they would not own them or milk. Buck was not a good breeder. 15, docked ewe lambs, and seven neck lambs. Same date, turned to pasture. Had intended fixing a trough in pasture, so as to feed the lambs, but on making inquiry found that local butchers were expecting to buy at same price as last year, \$2.50 and per head. I could not see it that way. Ten yearling lambs were selling for \$7 to \$5 per hundred, wool on, and for clipped \$1 per hundred. Thought lambs would be better by not being so fat, therefore no arrangements for feeding. Do not castrate or dock, as a local shipper they sell just as well in Pitts-burgh as if they had been castrated. They shipped some lambs

to Pittsburg April 15 obtained 9 cent per pound, average fifty pound; \$4 per head clear of expenses.

Lessons learned: It don't pay to breed old ewes. Sell them. Have a system of marking ewes so as to know their age. Then sort out and sell before they begin to deteriorate. For marking I use pig rings. Lambs dropped one season, I put a ring in right ear, another year, a ring in each ear, next season two rings in right ear, and so on. Don't depend on the teeth to tell if a ewe will winter all right or not. Ewes raising mutton lambs can be safely depended on to raise three crops of lambs, each season to replenish the flock. A greater per cent. of lambs dropped early is saved, and they also go through next winter better. Next August I will select a young, vigorous buck and shear him before turning with ewes. Would be better to stand buck. In this way could have twenty or more ewes drop their lambs in a few days. Would have a better chance for foster mothers, and if necessary could sit up with them a few nights. The lambs would be more even and sell better. When the lambing season extends over considerable time, the older lambs learn to steal milk that belongs to younger ones. The greater per cent. of lambs saved, they being more vigorous when dropped, and their uniformity would amply repay for time spent in standing buck.

Ticks are very troublesome to mutton sheep, especially when housed, and must be got rid of some way. Will try raising some tobacco this season and conjure up some cheap and handy device for dipping. When a farmer follows mixed husbandry he might have some lambs, some fat sheep, some pigs, a fat bull, a fresh cow; something to make a mixed car load, ship to some large city and obtain better prices than at home. Many farmers think that the raising of mutton lambs is troublesome. Last fall a gentleman was asking me for advice. I told him how I managed. Said he, "That is too much trouble for me. I guess I will stick to the old merion as they can take care of themselves." Now I know this is the way the gentleman manages his flock: Lambs come in in April; he is head over heels in work, not time to look after his sheep. Loses a good many lambs; several ewes die each year from spoiled bags, fly-blows, etc. This man is at work before sun up and comes in after sun down almost "too tired to blow his nose." So works the summer through. Winter comes, and aside from a few hours each day in feeding stock he practically does nothing. Now I claim that it would be much better for this man, and many other men, to have their lambs come in February and give them attention. It is not hard work, and then do not work so hard during the summer. They would live longer and have more money.

The Rabbit Pest in Australia.

"\$125,000 reward to the person who shall discover some effective method for ridding the land of the rabbit pest" is the substance of a proclamation made by the government of New South Wales, Australia, in August, '87 and published in all parts of the world. But though nearly three years have since passed, and though many schemes and projects have been submitted to the royal commissioners, all alike seem to have failed. One suggestion which attracted a good deal of attention at the time was the plan attributed to some of the disciples of Pasteur in France, of inoculating a number of rabbits with the virus of a fatal and communicable malady, and letting those rabbits loose in the colony to mingle with the wild rabbits and thus spread the infection. Nothing was accomplished, however, more than the death of the particular rabbits operated upon, the disease refusing to communicate to others. And so after three years the Commissioners in making their final report are forced to acknowledge the failure of their efforts to obtain any efficacious method for the extinction of the rabbits. They declare that they have found no evidence to warrant the belief that these animals can be exterminated by any known means. The best that they can say is, that some protection against the devastations of the rabbits is afforded by the use of wire net for fencing purposes, and that they therefore recommend that the Government should advance money in certain cases to the lessees of public lands in order to enable them to defray the cost of such fencing in the first instance.

There is a touch of romance in the history of this Australian pest. The rabbit is an exotic and was introduced by the colonists from Europe. Enriched suddenly by the Civil War in the United States, which caused the price of wool to rise enormously on account of the cessation of the American production, many of the colonists found themselves in the possession of large revenues. Luxurious and expensive tastes were fostered. Jealously imitating English customs, they conceived a passion for the chase, and formed in Australia societies for importing from Europe hares and rabbits. This became a veritable rage. Borrowing from English legislation the most vigorous measures, their parliament voted laws against the destruction of these animals, which, introduced in great numbers multiplied with prodigious rapidity. The soil and the climate so marvellously suited the rabbits that they reproduced much more rapidly than in England. The animal itself underwent transformation—of small size; and of an average weight of two and one half pounds it here became enormous and attained to ten pounds. In vain were the warrens enclosed with iron lattices; the rabbits crept through everywhere and regained the open country to the despair of the proprietors, who redoubled their efforts to increase the number. They succeeded so well that to-day the rabbits are a desolating pest. Lands which a few years ago produced seventy-five bushels of wheat to the acre appear to be abandoned. All culture in some districts has become impossible. The vineyards have been ruined, and as we have seen up to the present time, the means employed to destroy them have not secured any appreciable results. Rabbits are hunted, killed, poisoned, and still they swarm. This inability to cope with the pest is an interesting commentary on the boasted powers of man, that all his ingenuity, stimulated by the offer of a reward of \$125,000, is insufficient to enable him to deal effectively with one of the gentlest and least pugnacious animals on earth.

A strong solution of common washing soda applied four or five times a day to warrens is recommended as a ready and efficient means of their removal.

One scorn of experience is worth a whole wilderness of warning.

Egypt's Finances.

The scheme for the amelioration of Egypt's financial condition which is being discussed by those European powers that have a stake in that greatly burdened country, is in danger of coming to nought through the refusal of France to consent to any agreement until England withdraws her troops from the valley of the Nile. It may not be uninteresting to those who are unfamiliar with the recent history of that historic land to briefly recount the steps by which she has lost so largely the control of her own affairs. When the ex-Khedive Ismail succeeded to the throne of Egypt in 1862 he found the national debt only three or four million pounds. In twenty-four years it had been increased under his reckless extravagance nearly thirtyfold. He converted Egypt into a money-lender's paradise; he resorted to every expedient known to the spendthrift to raise money; he paid enormous rates of interest; he submitted to ruinous discounts; he pledged his private estates; he practiced every deceit and outrage on his patient people. But the day of reckoning came at last. In 1876, when he could neither borrow a farthing nor return a farthing that he had borrowed, he tried to find relief in bankruptcy. Then it was that the powers, whose capitalists had loaned their money in the hope of inordinate gain, but who now saw themselves threatened with heavy loss, came to their rescue. Assuming the role of Sisyphus, they demanded the pound of flesh. They took charge of the finances of Egypt, and from that day to this she has lived under the lash of a foreign taskmaster.

But while the administration of Egyptian finances since 1885 has been honest, efficient, and humane; while taxes have been collected with regularity and in a manner that presses less heavily upon the people; and while in consequence of surplus revenues Egyptian bonds have reached and maintained a level heretofore unknown on the exchanges of Europe, there is still great need of further amelioration. To this end Sir Edgar Vincent, financial advisor of Egypt, has been laboring with a view to having her debt, which now amounts to £103,426,640, and on a considerable portion of which interest at five per cent. is being paid, refunded at a lower rate. His scheme, which proposes to reduce the interest on all the various loans that have been made since '76 to 4 per cent. and to raise a further loan of £1,300,000 for irrigation works, has received the approval of three of the powers concerned—Russia, Italy and England. It was hoped that France would also have given her consent to the arrangement, but the latest advices state that she has positively refused to become a party to the measure until England shall have evacuated the country. Under ordinary circumstances, this unwillingness might have been expected to yield to gentle persuasion, but just now she is greatly displeased with the Anglo-German agreement concerning Africa and Zanzibar, and is in no mood to be expostulated with. To reject an arrangement profitable to one's self in order to be avenged upon one's enemy, is surely an unreasonable proceeding. It is in truth a cutting off of one's nose in order to spite one's face. Whether France will yet be brought to a better frame of mind and yield her consent to Sir Edgar's plan, it is impossible to say.

A Washington correspondent gives a very interesting chapter in the inner history of the Behring Sea negotiations. It appears that the conduct of the negotiations was taken out of Secretary Blaine's hands at the instance of the new Alaskan Company, and orders were issued that all vessels of foreign nations were to be seized, searched, and dismantled, believing that England would do nothing more than protest, but Lord Salisbury spoiled this calculation by ordering armed vessels to Behring's Sea. As a result the warlike orders to the American gunboats were withdrawn and the control of the negotiations has been restored to Secretary Blaine.

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