

AGRICULTURAL

HANDLING HEIFERS FOR THE DAIRY.

On the proper handling of the heifer depends in a great measure the profitability of the future cow, writes C. P. Goodrich. We wish to bring up a heifer for a special purpose. In our case it is to produce a cow that will give the largest returns of dairy products possible for the food consumed. Such a cow is able to consume, digest and convert into milk a large amount of milk-producing food. This ability to consume and utilize any particular class of foods is largely the result of education or habit. The class of foods that are best for producing milk are those containing a larger per cent of protein than do the foods that are best for producing fat. The kind of foods that are best for producing milk are the same kinds that are best for producing bone and muscle and growth of frame in the young animal. It is important that the heifer designed for the dairy should be fed so as to make rapid growth and development, but never be made fat or allowed to form the beef habit. That would detract from her value as a dairy animal every time, for when she comes to be a cow, and you try to push her by high feeding to make her produce a large amount of (and therefore cheap) dairy products, she will refuse to respond at the pail to the full amount of her feed, but will pile some of it on her back in the shape of beef. This no dairyman can afford. When he feeds his cow high he wants her to manufacture all of her feed, except what she needs for her own support, into milk. So I say guard against heifers getting fat. Begin when they are young by feeding skim milk and a little oil meal. Then feed wheat bran, oats and clover hay and such muscle-forming foods, but do not feed to any great extent such fattening foods as timothy hay and corn. The heifer, if properly fed, by the time she is two years old will have made a good growth and will be well developed. She should be bred so as to come in at that age because she will make a better cow if she commences the business of her life, which is giving milk, at an early age. If she should go over another year without coming in, and have a good pasture, the chances are she would get fat and the beef habit thus formed would surely detract from her value as a dairy cow. The heifer, from calfhood up, should always be treated in the kindest and gentlest manner. Instead of being wild and afraid of her owner or the herdsman, she should be tame and gentle and glad to see him. When I see my hired man go into the pasture where the cows and heifers are and they gather up around him, apparently anxious for a kind word or a little petting, I conclude there is a bond of friendship and kindly feeling between them, and they will do well for him. If, on the other hand, when he goes into the field they seem to wish to avoid and keep as far as possible from him, I conclude there is something wrong in the make-up of the man and consequently in his treatment of the animals. I make up my mind that the sooner he leaves my employ the better it will be for my interest. In order that cows should do well it is absolutely necessary that they should have a liking for the one who handles and milks them. When the heifer is about to come in she should have a box stall in a stable where she can be handled and petted by the one who has the care of her. She should have a good bed and be made as comfortable as possible, and the water, which should be given frequently, should not be cold. When she drops her calf is the time when the utmost care and skill is required if she is to be developed into the cow she is capable of being. First, she should be given half a pail of warm water, and if she is thirsty, give her another half pailful in an hour, and so on till her thirst is quenched. She is in a feverish condition, and should be fed but little grain or concentrated food for the first week. All the good nutritious hay or fodder she will eat, with a little wheat bran, is sufficient. After the first week the grain ration can be gradually increased, till in three weeks after calving she can be on full feed, and in four weeks she should be up to her maximum flow of milk. To get the heifer with her first calf to readily give down her milk for the human milker is frequently a task requiring the utmost skill, and on the degree of success with which it is attended depends, in a great measure, the future usefulness of the cow. A good way to do is to have a pen into which the calf is put where the mother can reach and lick it, but so arranged that the calf cannot suck. When the time comes you wish to milk take the calf from its pen, and when it begins to suck you begin to milk with it. Do this every time, never letting the suck unless you are there to milk with it. You are in partnership with the calf. The heifer will, to all appearance, seem to think she has got two calves. Soon, by the time the milk is fit to use, the calf can be taken away out of sight and hearing of the cow, and she will scarcely notice it. One of the partners has dropped out and the other is left, and she will hardly know the difference. Her calf has been taken away, and you are accepted in its stead. You are her adopted calf, and she will give down her milk as readily for you as she would for her own. The next year her calf can be taken away at birth and you can take its place at once and she will not appear to know the difference. Milk is a product which nature enables the mother to provide for the sustenance of her offspring. Maternal affection goes along with this act of giving milk, and to be a good milker one must have some hold on the affections of the cow. If the cow hates the milk-er she will never do well for him. All cows are not so particular—so finely organized. With many it does not seem to matter much who or what

milks them, but many of the heifers that have the making of the grandest cows in the country need just such skillful management as I have described or they will be ruined. All men who have handled cows know that a heifer will generally give down her milk more readily for her calf than for any person. Only a short time ago a man applied to me for advice. He had a very high-priced thoroughbred Jersey heifer that utterly refused to give any milk after her calf was taken away. Her udder was terribly congested. I advised him to follow the plan here outlined. He did so and partially succeeded in saving the heifer, though it is not likely she will ever be the cow she would have been if the management had been right at first.

THE PROFIT IN POULTRY.

A profitable business in poultry requires more capital, says the Poultry Keeper, than may be expected by those who anticipate making money in this pursuit. The bright side is always held in view, but the difficulties are unseen until too late to rectify mistakes. Any merchant who places his capital in his business is satisfied with a moderate dividend. He will first charge himself with the interest on his capital and if he realizes a clear profit of ten per cent, he will feel himself in a prosperous condition. This means \$100 per year on every \$1,000 invested. He will make a large profit when he has a large amount invested. He could not live on his business if he had only a few thousands in it, as the profits would be too small a sum total, though really proportionately large, unless he could double his profits by "turning his capital over" several times during the year.

Compare the poultry man with the merchant. Those who venture into poultry raising with the expectation of "making a living" on a capital of \$1,000 are looking forward to nearly 100 per cent profit. Many persons have such expectations, and are disappointed if they do not realize a large profit the first year, and that, too, when they do not know one breed of fowls from another, and know nothing of management.

Supposing that \$1,000 is needed to support a family, then the capital invested must necessarily correspond with the desired profit. Allowing that a hen should pay a profit of \$1 per year, 1,000 hens will be required, and the first year they must be purchased at fifty cents each. Their food will cost about \$750, and the buildings, fences and appliances about \$1,000. Some help will also be necessary, and the investment amounts to \$3,000—a low estimate.

The question then comes up—can one take \$3,000 and make \$1,000 profit on poultry in one year? Certainly no other business would be expected to give so large a profit, and such would be a large profit from poultry. In comparison with other pursuits, the results would be considered marvelous, almost treading on impossibility, and in fact it is almost impossible to secure such a profit.

A profit is the balance over and above all expenses, and we have omitted the fact, in the comparison, that the poultryman performs the labor himself. This changes the result, for he must pay for the labor, whether he does it himself or hires some one to do it. All labor must be considered in the expenses. The proposition is then changed, for instead of securing \$1,000 profit on an investment of \$3,000 there is simply no profit at all, which is not so marvelous as it may have seemed.

Success with poultry, when but a limited sum is invested, depends upon whether one does the work himself or must pay out cash to others for doing it. It is doubtful if anyone can succeed who is compelled to pay for all the labor performed, but it is possible for an experienced person to make a living in poultry growing on a small capital if he is content with being simply reimbursed for his labor.

Large sums are necessary in making large profits with poultry as in manufacturing. The capitalist who realizes a profit of ten per cent on an investment of \$20,000 may be able to prosper, while his neighbor on a profit of twenty per cent on \$1,000 may fail; the neighbor, though making a larger proportionate profit, could not exist on the small sum obtained from his limited capital. There have been but few instances in which any large sums have been invested in the poultry business. The difficulty with the few who have placed large amounts of capital in poultry is that they have invested too much in elaborate buildings and ornamental appliances rather than in the practical side of the business.

The poultry business is one of the most uncertain, and no one can succeed until he becomes educated to a knowledge of all its details. Neither can one entrust his enterprise to another. Disease, vermin, overfeeding, improperly constructed buildings, and other causes, will all combine to reduce the profits. It is really a business in the strictest sense of the term, and the capital must be managed with brains. Success does not even attend the merchant when he does not fully understand his business.

But few capitalists are ready to make a special business of poultry, for it is a pursuit that does not allow capital and labor to be separated. To those of limited means, the poultry business offers excellent opportunities, but no marvelous results, and no ninety per cent profits must be expected. No one should leave a position to which he is well fitted in order to embark in the poultry business. The farmer is just as competent to fill a position in the city as one without experience is fitted for managing a poultry farm. Such mistakes have often been disastrous, and it is of no advantage to induce anyone to take risks of loss. The first essential is experience, for without it capital and labor will be wasted. The best way to enter the poultry business is to begin with a small flock and gradually enlarge, the object being to learn, and also to breed for the kind of fowls desired. No one can suc-

ceed who goes on the market and buys his hens, of all sizes, breeds and characteristics, for he will know nothing of them, and may lose all from disease or inferiority of the stock. By breeding his stock he gets those best suited to the objects desired. It takes at least a year or two to bring together a flock of several hundred choice hens, for they are not often sent to market except in small numbers. The market is filled with fowls that are sold because they are not as serviceable on the farms as on the stalls.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Doings of Some of the World's Prominent People.

There is no likelihood of the shah of Persia visiting Europe for two or three years.

The late Sir Henry Parkes, of Australia, left one of the most valuable autograph collections in existence.

Rudyard Kipling recently refused a handsome price for his Vermont farm. It is said that after next year he will occupy it permanently.

Maj.-Gen. Teranchi, of the Japanese army, accompanied by a native engineer, Mr. Ozura, has arrived in Vienna to study the Austrian military organization.

Lady Jane Taylor has undertaken the superintendence of a new depot for all textile goods from the various hand industries in Great Britain and Ireland.

William C. Hill is a colored sculptor of Washington. In good weather he works at street paving, and pursues his art in bad weather. He has done fine work as a sculptor.

Horatio, Earl Nelson, who is 74 years of age, is now the only surviving peer who was alive and in the enjoyment of his title when the Queen came to the throne. He is the third in descent from the hero of Trafalgar.

The Emperor of Japan grinds out poetry by the yard. The Japan Mail of Yokohama, says:—"The Emperor seems to be a very prolific poet, for we are told by the Cho that during the last ten years Baron Takasaki, who may be considered to occupy the position of poet laureate in Japan, has seen more than 25,000 couplets composed by the sovereign. His Majesty has penned 4,200 couplets in the course of this year."

In spite of her being a descendant of those Princes of Orange who were among the foremost champions of the Reformation, the young Queen of Holland is showing an immense amount of consideration to the Catholic element, in her dominions, and has just conferred the Cross of the Lion of the Netherlands upon the Mother Superior of the Sisters of Mercy at Tilburg, this being the first occasion on which this decoration has been conferred upon a woman.

On the Isle of Man there is grief at the death of Joseph Mylchreest, gold-seeker, diamond miner, and philanthropist, and Hall Caine writes that "his life was an inspiration to honest, faithful, and upright effort." Mylchreest sold his share in the claims of the De Beers Consolidated Company to Cecil Rhodes for \$600,000. Then, putting large gangs of men to work night and day, he cleaned up all the gold—a fabulous amount of material—before the time when the contract was to go into effect.

Lord Salisbury is fond of relating the tale of "The Small Barber of Portsmouth." Some years ago Lord Salisbury had occasion to enter into a barber's shop in a suburb of the "Naval City." The tonsorial artist recognized his customer, for when his Lordship passed the shop two or three days after the event he was surprised and amused to find a placard in the window bearing the following notice:—"Hair cut, 3 pence; with the same scissors as I cut Lord Salisbury's hair, 6 pence."

Following the example of his cousin, Duke Karl of Bavaria, Prince Ludwig Ferdinand has begun to practise as a physician, and has office hours every day in the hospital of the Red Cross, in Munich. The Prince studied in the Munich clinics and hospitals, making a specialty of women's diseases. He is a nephew of the Prince Regent of Bavaria, and an uncle of the little King of Spain. He has also shown talent as a musician, and has written a fantasy for orchestra, which was performed at the New Year's court concert a year ago.

SOME NEW ANATOMICAL POINTS.

He was shot in the suburbs. She whipped him upon his return. He kissed her passionately upon her reappearance.

Mr. Jones walked in upon her invitation. We thought she sat down upon her being asked. She fainted upon his departure. He embraced her upon her restoration and no longer wept over her absence. He was injured in the fracas. He clung to her weeping. They gossiped upon his downfall. She fainted upon his departure.

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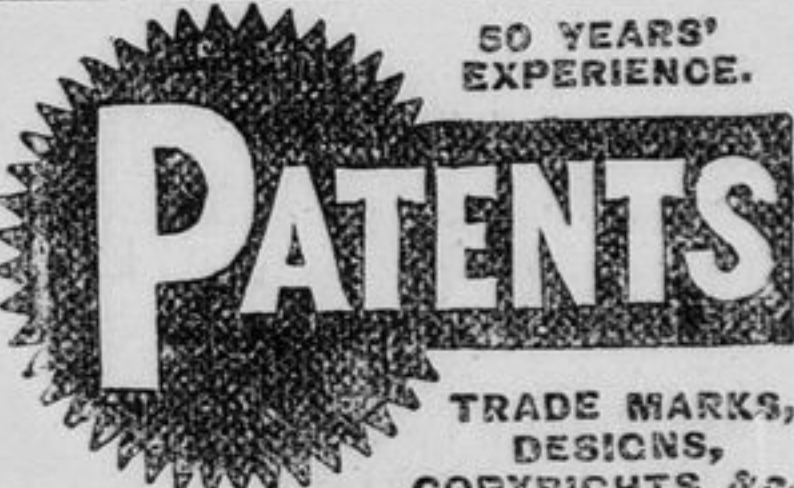
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Large Hawks and Owls, etc. \$3.00 to 4.00
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Squirrels, 1.15 to 1.75
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