Orange County Observer

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FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

GOOD BUTTER.

In addressing the Vermont Dairymen's Association, Professor Cooke gave the following practical suggestions:

"The best butter is that which best suits the taste of the person for whom it is made. The keeping quality is no longer considered essential. The consumers want to be as near the churn as possible. They no longer want a high flavored article, but most persons of a refined taste like it nearly like sweet cream in taste. Agents urge the merits of their various systems of butter making. By following out the season it will probably be seen that every one has taken a first prize, perhaps several. Every one has also made abominable butter. The man, the cow, and the feed have more influence than the system. Dairymen are wisely changing their herds so that they may engage in winter dairying and so come up to the times. The methods of to-day are very different from those of twenty-five years ago. Less labor is required, while the quality is much better. A man whose taste for good butter is educated is willing to pay for it, but will demand three things. A clean cow giving healthy milk, good feed, and cleanliness in every stage of the process. As regards ensilage-fed butter, no expert can tell this in the world if properly done, unless the odor is absorbed by the milk after it is drawn. When this is fed the stables must be well ventilated and free from the odor. The cream should be churned as soon as the acid appears so as to get that creamy taste. In the winter the cream will churn better if thinned with warm water.

PLOWING DEEP.

All soils cannot be treated alike, and because one farmer finds it best to plow deep should not be accepted by every one as conclusive evidence that deep plowing is the best under all circumstances, and especially is this the case where shallow plowing has heretofore been the rule.

It is not a good plan, in old ground especially, that has been plowed shallow for a number of year, to all at once bring several inches of subsoil to the surface in which to plant a crop. And yet this would not imply that if properly done deep plowing would not be more profitable. Either one of two plans should be followed—the plowing should be deepened gradually, or, if plowed deep for the first time, the work should be done a considerable time ahead, so as to give the different elements time to act upon the soil. If the land is plowed deep in the fall for the first time, usually by spring it will be in a fit condition for planting, or if plowed in spring it can be sown in the fall. But some soils should not be plowed deep, even when this plan is followed; while with others the deeper it is turned the better.

The character of the soil should largely determine the kind of plowing that should be done, and land that has been previously cultivated, if deep plowing is the best, should be deepened gradually, turning up a little subsoil at each plowing, until a great depth has been stirred. Generally, if done properly, deep plowing and shallow preparation and cultivation will be found the best, and a deeply stirred soil will induce a more vigorous growth, while the plants will be able to stand moisture better than when only plowed shallow. So that when the character of the soil will admit, the better plan is to plow deep and thorough, taking care to do the work in good season.

The action of the light, heat, cold, rain, snow and air is to render available plant food that is already in the soil, and if the subsoil is brought to the surface in this way in sufficient time to be acted upon by these, the work can be done with benefit.

But before plowing deep, understand the character of the soil and know that it will stand deep stirring.—*Prairie Farmer.*

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Have you killed the briers and bushes?

It saves cold fingers to dig potatoes early.

Pure well or spring water for the swine.

Paint over or wax over all considerable wounds on your trees.

Attend the fairs. Exhibit your stock, compare it with other stock and see wherein yours is inferior.

Feed the high-priced corn to low-priced cattle, and that will make both corn and cattle worth more.

Fattening steers, if fed one good ration of grain, can dispense with one-third of the pasturage required without grain.

One of the very finest fertilizers for melons is old bones, gathered up and reduced by placing them in alternate layers with ashes the year previous to using them.

An acre of clover should provide sufficient hay for a cow one year. Where the cows have pasture and the hay is only used in winter there should be a sufficiency for two cows. It is not every farmer who can make an acre support a cow one year, however.

Corn husks possess a value in market much greater than their value for breeding. They are used in the manufacture of beds, but if saved for that purpose they must be harvested before wet weather and be clean, dry and in bright condition. They are shipped baled.

The old method of training a pet lamb at the house and then turning it into the flock is still practised by some flockmasters. It is well known that sheep will follow a leader, and if the petted lamb has been taught to come at a call or peculiar sound the whole flock will be governed by following the particular one that has been trained.

Small potatoes make excellent chicken feed if properly fed. Boil, and while hot, mash with cornmeal and bran and feed warm. Give only what they will eat up clean and not oftener than every other day. The trouble which follows from feeding potatoes is due to over feeding when the birds are hungry and without mixing the potatoes with meal and bran.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

A spoonful of strong vinegar in a kettle of hot lard will prevent doughnuts from soaking fat.

The toughest fowl can be made eatable if put in cold water, plenty of it, and cooked very slowly from five to six hours.

When making a cornstarch pudding melt a lump of butter in the pudding kettle before putting the pudding in it. There will be less danger of the milk becoming scorched.

To clean oil paintings first brush them, then wash them with warm milk diluted with water; rub with a piece of flannel dipped in turpentine and then with a dry flannel.

Alum water is said to be a cure for frosted feet. Soak the feet for half an hour in a strong, hot solution of alum water; and if one application is not sufficient, two certainly will do.

It is the duty of every parent to isolate as far as possible any case of throat disease in the household until the patient is well. Adults with sore throats should refrain from kissing the little ones.

Some new 5 o'clock tea cloths are like large pocket handkerchiefs with hemstitched borders; others have designs worked in the corners in raised white or gold thread, in a very bold style.

Old carved cherry and mahogany bed posts, sometimes with curtains and tassels carved in their swelling tops, are being hunted up to make tall stands for hanging lamps or pot plants, or to frame in, as a sort of newel-post, the settees that stand in cozy corners and which divide drawing rooms into two halves.

The Locomotive's Limit.

In regard to the much discussed question as to the rapidity with which a locomotive can run, says the *Electrical Review*, some interesting official figures have been given by Mr. Stretton, an eminent English engineer, showing briefly that the highest speed ever accurately taken, was with a Bristol and Exeter broad gauge engine having nine foot wheels, and which was as long ago as 1853, officially timed at a speed of just over eighty miles an hour for a short distance, this occurring in the case of a falling gradient and with a light load. He also distinctly asserts that this speed is the maximum that can possibly be obtained with locomotives of the present type, the cause of this being, he declared, that at such a speed as that the resistance of the air, the back pressure in the cylinders and the friction altogether have become so great that they absorb the whole power of the engine, while the pressure on the wrong side of the piston becomes doubly increased by the fact that the exhaust steam cannot be got out of the cylinders fast enough.

The Indians of South Dakota are surely dying out. Throat and lung troubles, brought on by the severe winters and the efforts to make the Indians change their mode of living are the cause.

FUN.

The crow does not fly from a cornfield without caws.—*Washington Star.*

Love never has to be watched to see that it does a full day's work.—*Leadville Dispatch.*

The horse knows more than any other animal about wheel and whoa.—*Yonowine's News.*

There are a great many things that go without saying, but woman is not one of them.—*St. Joseph News.*

Economy is wealth; but it is a kind of wealth that the rich man finds it hard to transfer to his son.—*Puck.*

"The Czar never rides in a carriage now." "Why?" "He has discovered a revolutionary tendency in the wheels."—*Detroit Free Press.*

The farmers say there is an abundant crop of pears this year. We trust that the clergymen will be able to say the same.—*Lowell Courier.*

"I've caught cold twice this week," remarked a detective. "You always were a lucky fellow," said one of his fellow officers.—*Washington Post.*

Mrs. Brown—"You don't seem to have a very high opinion of your husband's ability." Mrs. Malaprop—"No; he's a very ignorant man. Last night he spoke of persons acting in concert when he should have known they only sang at such entertainments."—*Epoch.*

High Priced Doctor—"You are now convalescent and all you need is exercise. You should walk ten, twenty, thirty miles a day, sir, but your walking should have an object." Patient—"All right, doctor. I'll travel around trying to borrow enough to pay your bill."—*New York Weekly.*

However calm a man may be,
And temperate in writing,
Though he be led quite easily
In matter he's inditing;
Although he be polite to men
As scholar at the Hub born,
Still if he uses a pen,
His written thoughts are stubborn.
—*Munsey's Weekly.*

"Perhaps," said the fresh young man as he plumped himself down on the sofa between two giddy girls, "perhaps you were discussing some choice secret?" "Oh, no," said one of them. "I was just saying to Minnie that nothing should separate us, but really I didn't expect it so soon." And the beating of his own heart was the only sound he heard.—*Terra Haute Express.*

Whistling for Seals.

F. F. Payne, of Toronto, records in the *American Naturalist* an interesting fact which often came under his notice during a prolonged stay at Hudson's Strait. "Here," he says, "the Esquimau might often be seen lying at full length at the edge of the ice floe, and although no seals could be seen, they persistently whistled in a low note, similar to that often used in calling tame pigeons, or, if words can express my meaning, like a plaintive phew-ew, few, few, the first note being prolonged at least three seconds. If there were any seals within hearing distance they were invariably attracted to the spot, and it was amusing to see them lifting themselves as high as possible out of the water and slowly shaking their heads, as though highly delighted with the music.

"Here they would remain for some time, until one, perhaps more venturesome than the rest, would come within striking distance of the Esquimau who would often change the seal's tone of joy to one of sorrow, the others making off as fast as possible. The whistling had to be continuous, and was more effective if performed by another Esquimau a short distance back from the one lying motionless at the edge of the ice. I may add that the experiment was often tried by myself with the same result."

Sixty-two Cold Waves Per Year.

A very interesting paper read yesterday afternoon in the Physics section was by Professor T. Russell, of the Signal Office, Washington, on the "Prediction of Cold Waves from Signal Service Weather Maps." When the fall of temperature in twenty-four hours is twenty degrees or more, and covers an area of at least 50,000 square miles, and the temperature in the area goes as low as thirty-six degrees, it is called a cold wave. In the past ten years there have been 621 cold waves in the United States. The greatest cold wave was that of January 17, 1882, when the area included was 1,101,000 square miles. The cold waves always occur in an area covered by a low barometric pressure on the preceding day, or to the southeast of a region covered by an area of high barometric pressure.—*Indianapolis News.*

A Fortune in Frogs.

"About twenty-five years," said an old attendant in the big Washington Market, "several men made fortunes at catching frogs and sending them to market. The hind legs were cut off, skinned, washed, and, after being mildly salted, were sent away in barrels. Prices used to range from fifty cents to seventy-five cents for a dozen pairs of legs, and, as sales were quick, there was a pile of money in the occupation.

"One old fellow, a blacksmith, by the name of Weld, down in Greenbush, Me., supplied all of New England for years. He lived by the side of very extensive swamps that were filled with wigglers and cattails. The former furnished food for the frogs, while the latter gave them shade. I have seen bullfrog legs that were nearly as big as the legs of an ordinary chicken.

"Old man Weld used to hire boys to kill the frogs for him, giving them five cents or six cents a dozen. The frogs were so plenty that many of the children earned good wages, even at that small price. Weld dressed the frogs, corned them and shipped them to Boston in barrels, like herrings. He kept up the business for years and, though he slew hundreds of thousands every year, the supply did not diminish at all.

"By and by the prices went away down, and as the old man had cleared about $100,000 out of the scheme he retired, built himself a fine mansion and lived at his ease. He is the only man I know of who got rich by catching frogs, but I have heard of several others.

"Of late the frogs are shipped to the market 'alive and kicking' in cool, moist grass, and killed as they are wanted. This involves more expense. They bring higher prices than those that are shipped ready dressed. But the demand is not enough to make the business pay much. I wish people would eat more frogs, for there are ten times as many frogs in the United States to-day as there are people, and as fast as they die new pollywogs grow up to fill the vacancies."—*Boston Globe.*

The Oldest Vessels.

Speaking of the age of ships, John Reece, of Reece's Captains' Rooms, said: "The Vigilant is not by any means the oldest vessel afloat, although she may, perhaps, be the oldest vessel trading on the coast. The bark Truelove, built in Philadelphia in 1770, is still afloat, and the old Endeavor, that the late Captain Cook commanded and made one of his famous voyages around the world in, is, I am told, still in existence as a coal carrier between Newcastle and London. The most extraordinary instance, however, of the longevity of a ship comes from France. About ten years ago a bark was condemned to be broken up at Bordeaux that had the date 1684 carved on her main beam. So old was she that all record of her had been lost prior to 1790. She had been patched up, renamed and altered again and again. There was no question as regards her age, however, for her build and model all spoke of past centuries. Strange to say, the main keel, lower part of gripe and after deadwood were found as sound as the day they were put in. The oak had got as hard as a stone and broke augers when they tried to bore into it. The vessel was originally called, I believe, La Reine Marguerite, but when broken up she went under the name of La Cerf Volant. She was anything but a flyer, however, for she was a veritable old tub to sail."—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

Native Australian Handiwork.

In an article on the aborigines of Australia W. T. Wyndham speaks of the skill with which the natives use stone implements. "They turn out work," he says, "that you would hardly believe possible with such rough implements. They show great ingenuity, particularly in making their harpoon heads for spearing dugong and fish; instead of shaving the wood up and down with the grain, as a European workman would do, they turn the wood for a spear head round and chip it off across the grain, working it as wooden boxes are turned on a lathe. I have sat and watched them doing this.'—*Chicago Times.*

Shakespeare, who is considered rather wonderful than learned, had a vocabulary of 15,000 words; Milton had one of about 8000 words. The average learned man has a vocabulary considerably smaller than Milton's. The average man who is not learned, can get along with 2000 or 4000, and the man who doesn't do much of anything can get along with about 1000 words.

Artificial Rainfall.

Colonel D. T. Casper, who has been connected with the Signal Service since its foundation, early in the seventies, told a New York *Star* representative some curious facts about the service.

"A curious little clause was tacked to the Appropriation bill," began the Colonel, "while it was before the Senate, and went through the legislative mill innocently enough and is now a law. It provides that, under the direction of the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture, $2000 shall be expended on experiments in the artificial production of rainfall. There are those who are disposed to make merry over this provision of the Appropriation bill, but really there is nothing so very absurd about it. No doubt there is plenty of moisture at all times, if only it could be gathered in the right place and be made to fall upon the earth. Man has accomplished as difficult things as that in the realm of applied science. Then why not that? It is not contemplated, however, to produce rainfall by the slow growth of forests in the arid regions. The success of that method is still disputed. Under the new law it is proposed to find out whether rainfall cannot be produced by electricity, dynamite explosions or other mechanical agencies. Taking the cue from the fact that heavy cannonading on a battlefield or a Fourth of July celebration is followed by copious rains, the experimenters will work accordingly. The process of burning powder to produce rain has hitherto been too expensive to warrant its general use, but possibly cheaper explosives will be found. It has been proposed, among other things, to attach twenty-five pounds of dynamite to a toy balloon and then send a flock of such balloons into the air, with lighted fuses attached. At any rate," concluded the Colonel, "one way or another, the arid lands of this country are bound to be brought under splendid cultivation sooner or later. They comprise some of the most fertile soil on earth."

Animals in India.

India is never silent; whether in the city or jungle one is always surrounded by vigorous and sometimes obtrusive animal life, and in writing of the every day life of the country one should never lose sight of the relation which exists between it and that of the people. It is really one of the great attractions of India, provided always that one does not object to living for a while on terms of daily intimacy with the animal kingdom. With us in the West animal life is banished from our cities, or exists only in a state of bondage, and it is daily becoming more difficult to get within rifle shot of any wild creature. But on entering one of the crowded and primitive old cities of India one cannot help wondering to whom all these animals belong, and why this bullock is blocking the narrow street, or ruminating in the front doorway of a fine house. But we are not long finding out that these animals have quite as much right to the street as we have. For the most part, all these beasts, save the monkeys, are gentle and well-behaved, rarely presuming on their privileges; and their placid confidence in human nature shows that their trust has never been betrayed. Many incidents in the Arabian Nights, which even after a long familiarity with the Moslem East may have seemed to belong to the domain of pure fantasy, become to the observer in India simple illustrations of every day life.

A Bull With Two Mouths.

A New York city butcher recently came into possession of a remarkable animal, being a full-grown bull with two distinct mouths. The mouth proper of the animal is used soly for eating, while the other organ is used only for drinking. The bull is about eighteen months old, weighs 1200 pounds, and is dappled gray in color, the animal, with the exception of one shoulder and the forelegs, being well formed. The regular mouth is of normal size and contains two full sets of teeth, but no liquid ever passes between them. The other mouth is about five inches inches in diameter, at the end of a protuberance three inches thick, and is situated directly under the neck, about half way between the head and shoulders. There are neither eyes nor ears in connection with this mouth, but there are nostrils, through which the animal breathes as well as through his other nostrils, and a partial set of teeth, although this mouth is only used for drinking. The animal also has double knee and hoof joints. His disposition is said to be quiet and gentle.

Stealing Rogues' Pictures.

The camera that does the work for the rogues' gallery is concealed. The prisoner hangs his head and refuses to look up when asked to do so, or shuts his eyes and distorts his face. The photographer makes a feint with the camera in sight, takes out the plate and exclaims, "Oh, pshaw! that is spoiled!" or words to that effect, and walks hurriedly out of the room. The prisoner raises his head at once and looks pleasant. He has outwitted the photographer. Then the concealed camera gets in its fine work, and the rogue is still more surprised and pleased at being told that he can go.—*Chicago Herald.*

When you want to be happy, look up. When you want to be useful, look down.