

## Farm Department.

Conducted by J. M. BEATY.

### SOMETHING ABOUT DISHORNING.

#### A Connecticut Man Tries to Straighten Out Some Apparently Conflicting Opinions.

A writer in a prominent agricultural paper presents some cogent arguments in favor of dishorning. He says some of his cows have struck him in the face with their horns accidentally, while he was feeding them. Worse than that, his hired man was driving a yoke of oxen with horns on their leads, when a dog ran past the team. The nigh ox made a lunge, missed the dog with his horns, but hit the hired man in the southern portion of his anatomy, hurting his feelings very much. It is a wonder to me that the advocates of dishorning have not pointed out such convincing and unanswerable arguments as these before. No farmer, after reading this, will venture to feed his cows or trust his hired man to drive the oxen, without misgivings as to what might happen.

The same paper has a strong indorsement of the Horned Dorset sheep. One of the merits claimed for them is that they have horns with which to defend themselves against assailing dogs. Thus it appears that horns are to be considered objectionable upon the heads of cattle, but desirable upon the heads of sheep. Yet many a chap has yielded every point before an argument in rebuttal presented by a robust ram.

It seems there is no reconciling the conflicting views on this matter of horns. Some men are fond of them, and will take them any time, behind a screen, while others avoid even the horns of a dilemma, and still others are too uneasy to be satisfied with a horn of plenty. But I know of one horn that will never become unpopular on a big farm, and it will be vain for the relentless dishorner to denounce and demand the sacrifice of the welcome dinner horn.

My father had a yoke of oxen that would stop short in the furrow and turn homeward when the horn sounded at noon. I wish I had a picture of those oxen, with their great, broad, shaggy heads, honest, gentle eyes and long, white, graceful horns tipped with round brass balls. But not with those symmetrical heads "improved" by having the horns removed. As well undertake to improve the looks of a cat by pinning its ears back.

When the dishorning reformers have succeeded to their satisfaction in making horns unfashionable, they should turn their attention to disearing donkeys. Weighty reasons may be given for the elimination of these overgrown appendages. The reflective student of a donkey, observing the unwieldy preponderance of its ears, will also remark the utter insignificance of its tail in comparison. He will readily perceive how nature's blunder in this particular has spoiled the disposition of donkeys forever, unless man corrects the mistakes. Strong as is the constitution of a donkey, the animal lacks vital force to supply the needs of both ears and tail, and the latter suffers. As the donkey realizes what a ridiculous failure his tail is, it makes him mad, and causes him to kick habitually, thus placing all who cultivate his acquaintance in continual peril. The remedy is simple. Remove the ears, thus restoring the constitutional equilibrium, and see what a beautiful tail will develop, and how the donkey's disposition to kick will disappear. Disearing shears will, no doubt, be invented, with which the aural blemishes can be clipped off so deftly that the donkey will feel no inconvenience, only a little light headed at first, maybe. Until such shears are invented, perhaps the instruments employed for docking horses' tails may be used as humanely for one purpose as the other.—S. B. Keach, in Tribune Farmer.

#### What Farmers Need Most.

As I think of the farmers of my acquaintance and their needs I, too, am impelled to put my thoughts on paper. Farming is a business, and the great need of every farmer is the establishment of a business reputation which shall admit of no criticism; that of honesty and generosity in all dealings. Never, never offer for sale anything to which you cannot willingly attach your name. Let the buyer know that your

name stands for the very best; be it only a pound of butter or a dozen eggs. You must know they are good. As to credit, it is best when not used often. Strain every nerve to meet all obligations promptly. To this I would add, have good habits; temperance in all things.

On the business side of farming comes the need of keeping books. Your accounts may be as simple as you chose to make them, but certain things they should tell you, i. e., your income from your farm as a whole, and from each of its separate branches, as the dairy, poultry, pigs, etc. You should know the cost of production; also your living expenses separate from the expenses of running the farm. Perhaps you cannot keep an account of the cost of producing each crop each year, but you may do so with at least the main crop each year. You will find your ideas of farming elevated somewhat when you place it on a business basis.

System and regularity in work, especially in the night and morning chores, are a recognized necessity; yet how greatly disregarded they are by many! Success will hardly crown the efforts of him who rises one morning at 4:30 and the next at 7 o'clock.

About those things that have to be done each day there should be a regularity similar to that in a well conducted factory. This requires force, or "gumption," as it is sometimes termed—a sort of energy that needs cultivating till it becomes second nature. Certainly he who has that power of doing all things just when they should be done has taken one long step toward success. He will find his work running more smoothly and himself and family made happier thereby. Some need to see the benefits of temperance in work. It is much better to hire a few days' work in hurrying times than to get behind and fret and worry one's vitality away trying to catch up. There is no more sorry sight than the farmer who is behindhand trying to catch his work, when perhaps a little planning, a little more promptness, was all that was needed.—Mrs. E. C. MIGHELLS, Bowen, N. Y.

#### Life on the Farm Easier.

The exacting physical demands of life on the farm sometimes blind people of one generation to the advantages they possess over their ancestors. The lot of the pioneer farmer was a hard one through the West and the South. The lot of the farmer is to-day a hard one, but if he feels at any time discouraged let him contrast the conditions under which he labors with the conditions existing thirty, forty and fifty years ago.

J. C. Norton, a farmer who lives near Moran, Allen county, Kan., says he settled there with his parents thirty-one years ago. At that time one might gallop for miles in any direction and never see a house or sign of man. Now every spot of land about there is occupied, under fence. Long-distance telephone wires pass his house and in his own hall is a telephone connecting him "by word of mouth" with the business world. He orders what things he wishes by telephone from town in the evening and they are delivered the next morning. Mr. Norton lives in the oil and gas belt of Kansas and thus he is able to utilize natural gas in heating and lighting his house and in running his engines.

The value of the telephone is hardly yet fully realized by farmers, and in some of the rural districts the extension of the telephone is not encouraged. But it can be made useful in very many ways. A farmer discovered one morning before breakfast that his cattle had broken out of the pasture and were missing. He began telephoning to his neighbors and in five minutes had the strays located. The farmer can now telephone to the postoffice or to the village and find what the government weather report is for the next twenty-four hours and guide himself accordingly.

The free rural delivery adds immensely to the convenience of life on the farm, but the full value of the free rural delivery systems will not be realized until telephone wires connect one farm with the other and each farm with the town or village store.

Not only in these general utilities has there been a marked advance, but in farm implements and in the household utensils. Much has been done to moderate the excessive toil of the early generations in America, to increase sociability, to make education more available and in various ways to improve the attractions of farm life.—Home and Farm.

## THE YEAR 1902.

### One of Unparalleled Progress Along All Lines.

Following such a marvelous record as that of 1901, it was not to be expected that the past year would excel in every detail. Yet great progress has been made in the more important respects. Domestic trade increased to unprecedented proportions, manufacturing activity was unsurpassed, and consequently transporting facilities were taxed beyond their capacity, despite extensive additions to mileage, rolling stock and terminal facilities. Results in 1902 are especially gratifying because they were achieved despite the adverse influence of a most disastrous strike. Other struggles between labor and capital have caused more direct loss of life and destruction of property, but the coal strike of 1902 was the greatest industrial calamity of this nature that has occurred in the United States. Work was suspended for five months, and another five months will have passed before the effects will cease to be felt. No political agitation occurred to disturb confidence, nor was there the menace of unwise legislation. Our international relations were without friction, friendship with other great powers being strengthened in many ways, and, while export trade fell off because of special influences such as abnormal home consumption, fuel shortage and the scarcity of corn, the foundation was laid for large gains when these factors become less potent.

Results in the iron and steel industry have been unparalleled, despite the extensive curtailment because of inadequate supplies of fuel. Output of pig iron is estimated at 17,500,000 tons, more than 10 per cent. above the high water mark of 1901, yet consumption was still greater, necessitating imports of over half a million tons. Steel rails and other railway equipment, together with structural shapes, were eagerly sought, and exports fell off sharply because of the home demand. In the making of agricultural tools and machinery of all kinds new records were established, while in merchant pipe and kindred lines there was a vigorous movement. Instead of the overproduction and inflation of prices that marred conditions in this industry three years ago, the new year finds millions of tons already contracted for delivery during 1903, and foreign orders receive scanty attention. Great combinations of capital have brought under one control every step of the process from ore to the finished steel product, even including coke, and the consumer is saved the advanced cost that frequently resulted from speculation and many individual profits.

Prosperity in the agricultural sections has a potent influence on all lines of trade and industry, and the harvest of 1902 secured more abundant crops than ever before in the nation's history. Of corn and oats all records were eclipsed, and few years surpassed the last in the quantity of wheat harvested. Yields of hay, potatoes and other vegetables were liberal, while the movement of cotton indicates that only two previous crops werelarger. Heretofore in seasons of enormous production, the grower has been compelled to sell at such low prices that profits were low, and much of the surplus grain was used as fuel because no market could be found. Not so with the present overflowing barns, however, for high prices are readily paid, and foreign purchasers will absorb any excess above domestic requirements. Already the outgo of corn is exceeding the corresponding period a year ago by a large margin, and when transporting facilities become adequate the exports will increase. Meats have been scarce because of the previous short corn crop, and quotations ruled far above all recent years, but the situation is steadily improving in this respect. Leading imported articles of food have not enjoyed the high level of prices for domestic products, although the world's crops of sugar and coffee are smaller than in the previous year.—Dunn's Review.

#### A Cure for Lumbago.

W. C. Williamson, of Amherst, Va., says: "For more than a year I suffered from lumbago. I finally tried Chamberlain's Pain Balm and it gave me entire relief, which all other remedies had failed to do." Sold by Cavanaugh & Benson, Hare & Son, Hood Bros.

## THE CONTINENTALS.

### How They Were Dressed at the Capture of St. John's.

In "The Prologue of the American Revolution" in the Century Professor Justin H. Smith gives the following description of the "uniforms" of the American soldiers at the capture of St. John's in Montgomery's Canadian campaign:

All the besieging troops were on foot in the best attire they could command. In the three Connecticut regiments no uniforms were visible except as officers here and there had chosen to provide themselves or a private wore the dingy old coat that had done service at Louisburg years before; but gradations of rank were shown by colored ribbons. Plainly dressed though they were, the men looked formidable with their big muskets, the barrels four feet long minus two inches, the bore three-quarters of an inch in diameter and the gleaming bayonets fourteen inches in length.

Beside them stood the New York troops. Weeks before Captain Livingston had described the dress of his men: "Some of them have waistcoats, others none; some trousers, others none; some hats, others without; some ragged, others whole." And probably things had not improved much during the wear and tear of the siege. But they all had regimental coats at least, distinguishing the regiments by the color of the facings, and Montgomery declared that somehow they had acquired the look of regulars. There also was Captain Lamb with his artillery, all in blue and buff, and that of a finer quality than the infantry had, as became an elite corps, and yonder a squad of the Green Mountain boys from Longueuil dressed out in green with red facings, and such strapping fellows that the New York provincial congress had to order all their coats made "of large size." Behind them shone the tents of the soldiers and the officers' marquees, while the vast pines of the forest made a somber but magnificent background.

#### A Gentle Hint.

A certain youthful billiard marker was recently informed by his employer that he would have to be more careful in the matter of chalk. "Can't help it, sir," replied the marker. "I knows the gents wot pockets the chalk, but they're regular customers, and you wouldn't like me to offend them, would you, sir?"

"Well, no," was the reply; "but you could give 'em a gentle hint, you know."

The marker promised to do so, and a day or two later, on observing a player pocketing a piece of chalk, he approached the culprit and remarked:

"You'll excuse me, sir, but are you connected in any way with the milk trade?"

"Well, yes," was the reply. "What of it?"

"I thought so," rejoined the marker, "by the amount of chalk you carry away. My gov'nor likes enterprise, and he told me to give you a hint that if you wanted a bucket of water now and again you could have one with pleasure!"—London Telegraph.

#### The Fork.

"Do you know that the fork occupies the place of greatest dignity at the modern feast?" asked a man as he seated himself with two companions after having partaken of an elaborate banquet.

"You know that the fork is a comparatively modern institution as a piece of table furniture, and its growth in popular favor has been marvelous. By actual count it required eleven forks for the proper disposition of my portion of the feast that I have just attended. Think of eleven when only a short time ago one fork was considered unnecessary.

"Early in 1600, when the Italian fashion of forks was introduced into England and Queen Elizabeth stopped eating with her fingers, her subjects laughed at her affectation. Now a mortal who is not a queen requires eleven of them. How important has become the fork!"

#### The Glove in History.

The glove has served many purposes, such as the award of honor, token of love, payment of service and gift of gratitude. It was once also the signal of mercy, the dropping of the royal glove before a culprit under punishment securing instantaneous release, and from early times it has also served as a challenge to deadly combat. The habit of presenting gloves was kept up even into Puritan times and finally grew into such an extravagance that the legislature of Massachusetts took the matter up and forbade the lavish glove giving under a penalty of £20. The glove has served an important part in the world's history, and many interesting facts concerning its history could be recounted if space permitted.—London Standard.

# Rheumacide

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**TWO CURES.**

**FLORENCE, S. C., Aug. 16, 1902.**  
Gentlemen:—I began to suffer from rheumatism about three years ago, and had it very bad in my limbs. At times I could hardly walk. Was treated by a physician without benefit. More than a year ago, Mr. George Wilson, an engineer on the Coast Line, living in Florence, told me that "RHEUMACIDE" cured him. I got a bottle and it benefited me. I took five bottles and am now as well as I ever was in my life. I regard "RHEUMACIDE" as a great medicine. I know of others it has cured.

Truly,  
S. T. BURCH.

**DARLINGTON, S. C., Aug. 19th, 1902.**  
Gentlemen:—About two years ago I had a very severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism. I suffered great pain and was confined to my bed for five weeks. During the time I was treated by two Physicians without permanent relief. Capt. Harker, a conductor on the Atlantic Coast Line heard of my condition and sent me two bottles of "RHEUMACIDE." I began to take it and in a week I got up and walked on crutches. After taking three bottles of the remedy I got entirely well and went back to my business. I personally know of a number of other bad cases that were cured by the use of your medicine, in this town and vicinity. It is all that you claim for it.

Truly, J. L. SISKRON.

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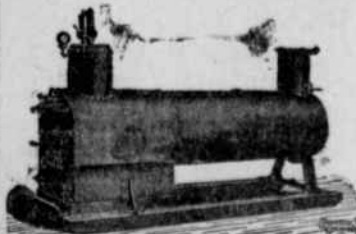
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