

ENGLISH SPEECH FOR CHINA.

As nobody knows even approximately the number of inhabitants in the vast Chinese domain, so, perhaps, nobody can say definitely and positively how many distinct dialects are spoken by the peoples of the different provinces.

It was noted in these columns recently that the price of platinum in the New York market had risen to the highest figure ever reached—over seven hundred dollars a pound.

A crusade on "fads and frills" in the public schools of the city is to be started in New York, with more thoroughness and less experimentation as its slogan.

It's well to be clean, but if you wash your rugs with gasoline, be careful. A Springfield, Mass., merchant, who is fastidious, had his office rugs scrubbed with gasoline and then gone over with a vacuum cleaner operated by electricity.

That collision between a steamship in the merchant service and a United States armored cruiser in the harbor of Honolulu, in which the cruiser was so badly damaged as to necessitate immediate retirement for repairs, while the merchant ship steamed off apparently uninjured, might be cited as illustrating Kipling's assertion to the effect that the "weaker vessel" is the deadlier of the two.

Prof. Worthington told a London audience that in order to obtain pictures of what happened when a drop of water fell into a vessel containing water he had taken photographs by an electric spark of the duration of three-millionths of a second.

One of the baseball umpires announces that it is not wise to see too much while umpiring. It isn't what an umpire sees, but what he hears or feels that makes his task a heavy one.

It is proposed in Spokane to make the politician out of applicants whose warts are greater than their chests. However, rotundity will come with police service, as of old.

A Chicago man says ragtime is as dangerous as whisky. And just as disagreeable to take.

The debt of New York is larger than that of the nation. But then New York has all our money.

In adopting American customs it is to be hoped that the Chinese women will not acquire the habit of getting the street cars backward.

A bloodless duel has been fought in Vienna over a new opera. And yet the United States considers itself the country of real advertising.

A vast quantity of post is lying idle in the country, and it will be in that condition while good work lasts.

PROMINENT PEOPLE

BEST LOVED MAN IN AUSTRIA



Undoubtedly the best-loved man in broad Austria is not cross old Kaiser Franz Josef, but his still older cousin and councillor, Archduke Rainer. Rainer is very, very old; and he is known as "the Rainer."

quity, the Rainer is the most modern man among the hundred and fifty Hapsburg archdukes. In all that relates to soldiering, politics, art and science no man outdistances the Rainer.

EUROPE'S ROYAL HOUSEWIFE

It would be hard to find a more capable housekeeper than the empress of Germany. Her ideal is service; she has devoted her life to serving her country, her husband, and her children.



When the Kaiser calls for his wife he finds her engrossed in the many departments of her housekeeping role in which she is so proficient.

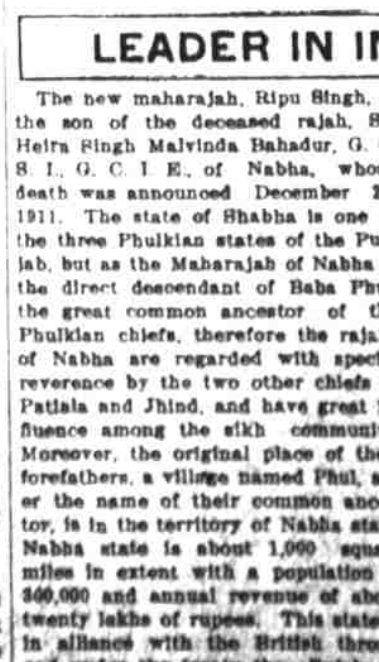
MAKING PRESS ARRANGEMENTS



Letters are being received daily by Charles S. Albert, chairman of the standing committee of correspondents in charge of the Press Galleries of the Senate and House of Representatives at Washington, asking for reservations in the press sections at the Republican and Democratic National conventions, the latter of which will be held in Baltimore June 25.

remained with that paper's local staff, and now constitutes one of the wheel horses in the famous Pulitzer organization.

LEADER IN INDIAN AFFAIRS



The new maharajah, Ripu Singh, is the son of the deceased rajah, Sir Helta Singh Malvinda Bahadur, G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., of Nabha, whose death was announced December 27, 1911.

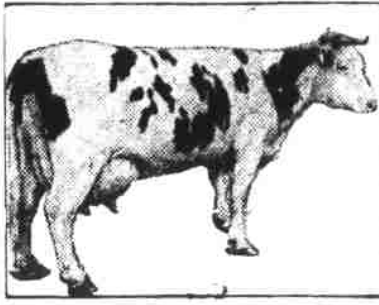
DAIRY



CARING FOR THE YOUNG COW

Early Breeding of Heifers Advocated by Dairymen—Very Best Market for Skim Milk.

(By W. H. UNDERWOOD.) I have long followed the plan of raising ten to a dozen calves each year, thus being allowed to replace the inevitable losses of the dairy and to constantly cull and sell those



An Excellent Milk Type.

which I consider least desirable. I think this practice ought to be followed on every farm where skim milk is available, because a dairy calf offers one of the very best markets for this dairy by-product.

I let these calves become mothers rather young. It is surprising how very early a vigorous young heifer will breed if the opportunity is given her. I had once a Jersey-Holstein cross-bred heifer that gave birth to her full term calf when only fourteen and one-half months old.

It is the business of a dairy cow to give milk and to learn to turn all her products and energies along this channel, and so the earlier she can get started in the right way the better.

It is sometimes said that early breeding stunts or dwarfs a heifer, but I have had many heifers to drop their first calves at from eighteen to twenty months of age, and afterward they developed into cows which were large and vigorous for their breed.

I like best to start with a September or October calf and then, if they spend their first winter under favorable conditions, with plenty of skim milk and early cut hay, bran and ground oats in addition, they will be sleek and plump when they go to pasture in the spring.

HOW TO WORK A SEPARATOR

Good Machine Will Soon Pay for Itself and With Proper Care It Will Last Lifetime.

(By BESSIE L. PUTNAM.) Did you ever know a person who has a reliable separator to say that it does not pay? They all tell you it is the way to do it—the only way.

Look at a first-class machine and note the high speed attained. Only the best material and workmanship can be included in such a combination. It is no wonder that separators which are worth owning cost money. Yet a good one will soon pay for itself and with proper care it will last almost a lifetime.

The work of separating a moderate amount of milk is easy in comparison with the old way, or even with keeping water on it in a tank. If it runs too heavy a gasoline engine will soon fix that beside proving a most profitable servant in many other duties.

USEFUL STOOL FOR A MILKER

Provision is Made in Front for Placing Milk Pail—Not Hard to Put Together.

I have a good milking stool which provides a seat for the milker and a place to set the pail, says a writer in the Farm and Home. Two by 19-inch stuff was used in the making. The



Inexpensive Milking Stool.

seat is 10 inches square, and underneath it is nailed a board 18 inches long which projects out far enough to hold the pail. The legs are 12 inches high.

Overfeeding the Calf Results in Taxing the Digestive Organs beyond their limited capacity, which naturally deranges the whole system, and is often the cause of scours. Then, again, when the milk is fed at a temperature lower than the animal's body, which in cattle is about 102 degrees, the vitality of the calf is lowered in its effort to heat the food to a point where proper digestion begins; hence it is advisable not to feed cold milk until the calf reaches the age when its activity is sufficient to maintain body temperature.

Great Difference in Milk.

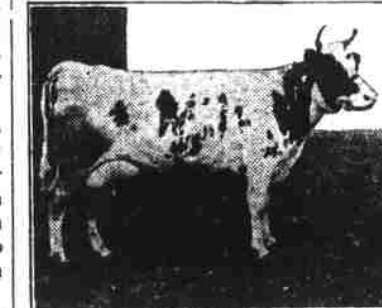
Every person who has never milked cows, as well as some who have only witnessed this interesting process at a very safe distance, realize that there is not much variation in the quality of milk from various cows in the herd and on the same farm, but to most people "both is milk," very few having any correct idea as to the difference that exists.

AYRSHIRES GOOD DAIRY COWS

Almost Ideal Animal for Consumer on Account of Uniform Composition of Her Milk.

The Ayrshires are distinguished more as good average dairy cows than for heavy production either of milk or butterfat. In both these regards they occupy a position midway between Jerseys or Guernseys and Holsteins. An average herd of Ayrshires would probably produce more milk and butterfat than an average herd of other dairy breeds, but a selected herd of Ayrshires would fall much behind the production of a selected herd of the other breeds.

Twenty-four head of Ayrshire cows owned by different experiment stations in America produced an average of 6,532 pounds of milk per year and an average test of 3.85 per cent of butterfat, or 252 pounds per year. The test of the milk 17 cows gave an average of 12.98 per cent total solids. In this the fat represented 29.6 per cent of the total solids, as compared



Florence Melrose.

with 34.5 per cent. for the Jerseys and 25 per cent. for the Holsteins.

For veal production the Ayrshire ranks next to Holsteins. The calves weigh from 60 to 75 pounds at birth and are strong, vigorous and active. Doubtless no dairy breed produces as good beef as the Ayrshire. They fatten readily when dry and are said to dress out a good proportion of meat.

INCREASED YIELDS OF MILK

Pennsylvania State Experiment Station Makes Comparative Study of Sowing Crops.

The Pennsylvania state experiment station has made a comparative study of sowing crops for dairy cows. It was found that the chief influence upon quantity of milk produced during the experiments seemed to be closely related to the palatability of feeds. That is to say, those feeds eaten by the cows with the greatest relish, and consequently of which the largest quantity of green forage was consumed generally gave the largest yields of milk. This seemed to be true regardless of the amount of dry matter or percentage of protein contained in the feed.

Selling Unprofitable Cows.

A farmer made the following statement after testing his milk cows the first time:

"I found that I had one cow that gave over 6,000 pounds of milk in a year. From her I could not help making a profit. I found that I had another that gave some 2,800 pounds of milk in a year. From her I couldn't help making a loss."

Every farmer should test his cows and find out how many profitable cows he is feeding and caring for. The unprofitable cows should be sold to the butcher.

Dusty Roughage.

Avoid feeding hay or dusty roughage just previous to milking. There is too much dust to drop into the milk pail.

DAIRY NOTES

Don't expect the dairy cow to give a very large return in milk for an inferior ration.

After the third month the calf will begin to want extra water, and some may be mixed with the milk.

Observe with care and note as a first point that the cow should have a large and ample body.

Cold rains are much harder on cows than dry cold. Dump cold penetrates to the bones. Provide dry shelter.

Turn separator with a steady and uniform speed and flush down with skim milk or water at end of separation.

One man says the first year of milking is the proper time in which to make the foundation for a persistent milker.

In dairying there is no excuse for the man who goes at it blindly and guesses luck and the weather for his failure.

Drinking is not necessarily a cow's greatest source of water but the most important one.

HORTICULTURE



INSECT ENEMIES OF TOBACCO

Damage Done by Pests Growing Larger Each Year Throughout the Country—Easy to Control.

The United States produces approximately 1,000,000,000 pounds of tobacco every year, but the farmers who grow this enormous crop pay each year a large dividend to insect pests. The number of serious tobacco pests is not large, and most of them are subject

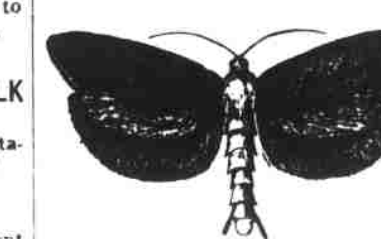
to easy methods of control. Yet, regardless of these facts, the damage to tobacco by insects is growing heavier year by year. True, not all of this loss is preventable, but a large amount of loss may be avoided by proper methods of sowing the seeds, cultivation, rotation and various other indirect as well as direct remedies which affect the insects themselves.

The tobacco Leaf Miner is an insect which is considered easy to control. The injury made by this insect is manifested by large irregular blotches appearing on the leaves. These are at first whitish, but later become very dry and parchment-like. Leaves injured in this way are unfit for wrapper purposes, as they tear very easily.

There are two generations of the Leaf Miner each year, the winter being passed in the adult stage, the adults hiding away in trash found about the tobacco barns.

The horse or bull seems to be the original food plant of this insect, hence all weeds of this type should be kept out of the tobacco.

Frequent cultivation of the tobacco, stirring the soil up quite close



Tobacco Leaf Miner.

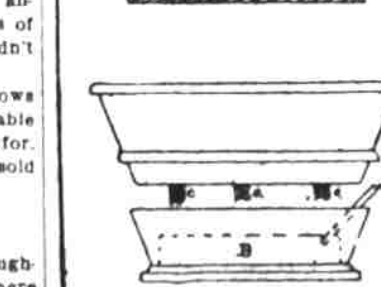
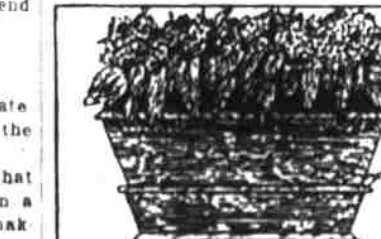
to the plants will bury the pupae so deeply that the adult moths will be unable to reach the surface.

The larvae may be destroyed in the leaves by pinching them, and if a close watch is kept they may be destroyed in this way before they have done much damage. The leaves seem to be able to recover from slight injury, whereas if the larvae is allowed to continue its work, the leaves never recover.

FLOWER BOX IS MADE HANDY

Small Storage Tank Concealed Underneath Prevents Suffering From Lack of Water.

The Flower box herewith illustrated is to prevent the flowers from suffering for lack of water through neglect, says the Homestead. As shown in the illustration the two lower figures show the box in detail, the upper illustration shows the completed box. The principal feature of the box is a small storage tank concealed in the lower section. The water is supplied to the plants through cloth wicks, or sponges, as needed. The wicks are



Handy Flower Box.

simply placed in holes bored through the bottom of the top section, as shown at C. C. To renew the water in the tank without removing the top section a small metal pipe is placed in the end of the box, as shown at A. A wire telltale is made by placing a cork on the wire and allowing same to float on the water in the tank, thus telling by the length of wire extending out through the tube, A, just how much water is contained in the storage tank. Plant food may also be fed to the flowers by making a solution of same and placing it in the storage tank. The box as shown may be made ornamental, as well as useful.

Reesting the Orchard.

Uniformly good results have followed the reposing of trees that died immediately by other trees of the same kind. But if the hole is opened up in the fall and allowed to be filled in the spring, it is safe then to plant out a tree of the same kind as that which died.

The hole should be opened out a good deal wider and deeper than is usually done to receive the new tree. The stump should be cut out a large size of the hole around the tree as it is planted.

Apple seed largely spreads about the time of the first, second, and third sproutings.

When green is permitted to ripen the seed does the largest part of the

SCRAPING BARK FROM TREES

In Case of Ordinary Healthy Tree Treatment is Advocated by Pennsylvania Zoologist.

As to the advisability of scraping rough or shaggy bark from apple trees, the state zoologist of Pennsylvania has the following to say:

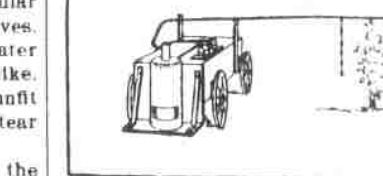
This depends upon the conditions in general. I advise such treatment, especially for rough, scaly bark on old trees; but if it be bark that has been roughened by the injurious action of soil sprays, or by burning with fire or some other injury, I am satisfied it would be wrong, because this is the tender bark beneath just what a scab of an animal is to a sore which it is protecting.

Therefore, if the bark beneath be tender, so that it would be injured by being scraped, it is best not to do it. In the case of an ordinary healthy tree it is certainly best, but at injured places, such as above mentioned, it is advisable to scrape gently, if at all. On an old tree one cannot apply enough pressure with a short handled hoe or bark scraper to do any injury, and this will remove many insect pests, such as codling moth, woolly apple and certain hibernating creatures, and expose scale insects and other pests to the action of the weather, and of the insecticides to be applied before the leaves appear.

SPRAYER FOR SMALL TREES

Apparatus May Be Wheeled Along Row of Plants With Delivery Pipe on Either Side.

The spraying apparatus shown in the illustration may be wheeled along a row of plants or small trees as desired. The top of the tank is adapted to serve as a platform. This



Sprayer.

delivery pipe has a pair of downward projecting arms, each of which is provided with four nozzles. The delivery pipe may be swung to either side of the tank.

JAPANESE PLUM VERY HARDY

Will Grow on Almost Any Soil and Do Not Need Particular Coddling—Come On Early.

Plums of the Japanese variety are popular with most growers, particularly in the east, because they are hardy and come on early. Many of these varieties are the earliest in the market, and as they are always of good color, either cherry red or light yellow, they sell readily and bring good prices.

They will grow well on almost any kind of decent soil, and do not need to be particularly coddled; although they should have all the care that any good fruit tree deserves.

These Japanese plums differ from the domestic varieties in that the leaves are longer, thinner and smoother, and it has a great tendency to produce lateral fruit buds on the annual growth. Its fruit is mostly short, round and plump.

The Japanese plum is less liable to injury from curculionid and black knot than the domestic variety. Mr. Fullerton says that up to this time his trees have shown no signs of disease or attack from insects of any kind.

Spring Planted Peach Trees

As H. Fulton, a well-known peach grower, in a horticultural meeting of peach trees is best for northern latitudes. Prune thoroughly and head the trees low. From 10 to 14 inches from the ground is high enough. Three limbs are better than more in starting the top. Prune thoroughly and thin and use cover crops around the trees.

Lack hard frosts are best as nurse crops when the trees are small. Let hogs have the run of the orchard until peach buds begin to ripen. Use lime sulphur for the scale and peach leaf curl.

Pruning Currant Bushes

Pruning the currant bushes at cutting away all dead wood and thinning out the new growth as may be desired.

Site for Garden

The fruit and vegetable garden should be situated in a well sheltered spot, having the full benefit of the sun and where the soil is well drained.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES

Trees that are well tended beautifully a home.

Fertilize the orchard for next season's crop.

Plum trees should be pruned about the same as apple trees.

There is no phase of life that is not influenced by good roads.

Gradually bring the hyaclinth and narcissus into the heat and light.

Provide for the future by planting a small strawberry patch this spring.

Go over the fruit and vegetable in the cellar, and throw out those decaying.

Unleached wood ashes are rich in potash, varying from six to forty per cent.

The earlier sweet peas are sown the larger the number of flowers produced.

Nearly all varieties of plums bear better crops of fruit when a number of varieties are growing near each other.

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