

**FARM AND DAIRY.**

This column is devoted to agricultural subjects, and the editors will be grateful to farmers if they will use it for the intelligent discussion of matters pertaining to their important calling.

**How One Boy was Kept on the Farm.**

Very often we see in the papers articles on "How to keep the sons of farmers on the farm," and many times they are written by those who have no sons and often by those quite unacquainted with farm requirements. I should like to tell how one boy was induced says a writer in the Cultivator and Country Gentleman to become interested in farm life that perhaps other farmers may see possibilities for their sons for mutual benefit.

In 1874 my boy was given at birth ten dollars for his name, which I put at six per cent. interest for him. When he was eight years old he liked to help me care for the cattle, and one black steer calf he had quite a fancy for. As I at that time was in need of a few dollars which I intended to raise by selling the calf, and except for that I could keep him as well as not, I proposed to him he buy my calf and one of our neighbors that would match it, and so have some stock of his own—a proposition quickly accepted, and from that time with ownership came a quickened interest in all the work of the farm, but particularly in the comfort of the animals in winter and to increase productiveness of the fields in summer that he could have sufficient to feed them as he liked through the winter.

As they grew up, he broke them to drive, and from the time they were four till now they or their representatives (purchased by proceeds of their sale) have made the major part of the working team on my farm, so that what was given him as a privilege brought to myself as well.

As they became merchantable, they were his to sell when he choose, and the money obtained he to use—invest again or put in the bank as he saw fit—generally kept invested in cattle as most profitable. Once or twice I have lent him money to buy a particularly promising pair before he thought his others were quite fitted for the market, and by thus trading he has acquired the habit of judging "points" in cattle that some men many years his seniors would be glad to possess. As he grew older I told him he might have the last two winters of his minority for himself, if he would help me summers.

As a result, I have had a good team nearly all the time since '87 to use; and my other neat stock has been more carefully tended, and now at his majority he has now snug in the bank for savings, \$500—\$300 from his steers and trades, \$200 from his two winters work—not a large sum surely, but along with it a knowledge of stock, how to feed and care for it to have it thrive; habits of observation of methods of raising crops to best advantage, self-reliance as to times of changing (selling and buying) that otherwise might have taken some years after his majority to acquire. For unfortunately, too much paternalism in private as in national affairs does not contribute to independence but dependence of the citizen to his and the nation's loss. Coming years will not bring any more thorough enjoyment probably than was often his at the end of the days work with his first pair, when he would say, "Old Nig, you're tired I know but you must carry me home, and when we get there I will take good care of you." Suing action to the word and mounted on his back, he would ride to the barns where instead of neglect and a dirty stall, as is too often the case with cattle, a careful grooming and a nice bedded stall waited for them—thrift the result.

**Effect of the War on Tea.**

Some far-seeing people who are interested in the tea trade have been considering how the trade is likely to be affected in the long run by the war which is unhappily going on between China and her neighbour, Japan. Of course during the progress of hostilities the cultivation and preparation of tea for the market by the Chinese must receive a serious check, but how will it be afterward? Will the striking advantages of European methods as exemplified in the success of the Japanese forces make the Chinese more amenable to Western ideas, and will this have the effect of stimulating the output of Chinese tea in competition with Ceylon and Indian teas through the introduction of machinery? If the times of Ceylon is to be trusted, the Ceylon planters are in no fear of increased competition from this quarter. It is pointed out that machinery always finds it difficult to compete with efficient coolie labour, and that in China it costs almost nothing to grow, pluck, and manufacture tea, seeing that the work is done by the owners of a few bushes in their spare moments. Moreover, even if the output of Chinese tea were largely increased, there is no evidence that it would find an increased market in England, at all events. Ceylon tea has greater strength and pungency than China tea, and English consumers prefer it in consequence, although in other countries the same preference is not shown, at least in so marked a degree.

**Birds in Winter.**

Probably the most wonderful example of avian indifference to frost, or rather of the want of effect of the coldest water on birds' legs, is exemplified in the habits of the humming birds of America. The diminutive size of these creatures and the extraordinary delicacy of their bones and whole nervous system are notorious. The broad-tailed species (*Trochilus platycercus*), if stripped of its beautiful feathers, is no larger than one of common bumble bees. Some years ago, when Dr. Merriman, chief of the Ornithological Section of the American Agricultural Department, was on a scientific expedition in the mountain regions of San Francisco, he encountered flocks of hundreds of these beautiful little creatures, and he described

their habits in a bulletin which he issued in 1890. "They wake up very early in the morning," says Dr. Merriman, "and go to water at daylight, no matter how cold the weather is. During the month of August, when the mornings were often frosty, hundreds of them came to the spring to drink, and bathe at break of day. . . . They would drop down to the water, dip their feet and bellies, and rise and shoot away as if propelled by an unseen power." And yet these pigmy birds are essentially creatures of flower and sunshine. Truly, the mysteries of bird-life are, in many respects, mysterious and (apparently) past finding out. Birds, I believe, never absolutely die of cold. I question if they even feel it as man does, and I attribute their invulnerability to the closeness and warmth of their feathery covering, the peculiar texture of the skin of their feet and legs, the fatty plumpness of their flesh, the warmth and richness of their blood, and other purely physiological characteristics. If kindly disposed people, in the visitations of severe weather, take care to spare a little for the birds, the birds will take care of themselves—and be healthy, wealthy, and happy—and the robins and wrens, at least, will pay back with interest in floods of that melody which is indeed a "glorious gift of God" to the "poor man's choristers," and which they do not, in winter at all events, pour forth in emulous rivalry and for purely selfish sexual ends.—*Cornhill Magazine*.

**English Sleeping Cars.**

The new style English sleeping car is not at all like the American sleeper, except that it has the corridor principle. The American car has been tried in England but is not favored.

The sleeping carriages of the North-western line are partitioned off into eight separate bedrooms, each containing two brass bedsteads. A corridor runs along the side of the car, from which all the rooms open. In the center of the car is a sitting room for men and one for women, and there are lavatories.

An old institution on British roads is the saloon carriage, which is much after the style of American private cars, only on a smaller scale. These saloons consist of a lobby, with umbrella stands, hat and coat pegs, closets for linen and china, and a small pantry. Opening off on one side is a servants compartment, and on the other side a smoking room.

Then comes a large drawing-room, occupying about half the car. It contains several mahogany tables, chairs, divans and couches. At the farther end is a lavatory. These cars have been improved on year by year, until now the newest ones are as comfortable and luxurious as one may find in the world. Some companies have third-class saloons, while picnic saloons, for racing parties and the like, are fond of some lines. The electric light is generally used on British railways now.—*New York Sun*.

**Don't Push.**

Have you any idea of the number of persons that the United States would sustain without overcrowding the population or even going beyond the limit of density now shown by the State of Rhode Island? The last census of the pigmy state just gives a population of 800,000. The area of the state in square miles is only 1,250; thus we find that there is an average of 318 persons on every square mile of her territory.

We can best illustrate the sustaining capacity of the whole of the United States and of the other states by making some comparisons. The State of Texas has an area of 265,780 square miles; and were it equally densely populated as "Little Rhody," would comfortably sustain a population of 83,523,628 inhabitants—a greater number of persons than the whole country is expected to have in the year 1900. Scatter people all over the whole land from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the gulf of the British possessions, as thickly as they are now in Rhode Island, and we would have 945,766,300 inhabitants, instead of an insignificant 62,000,000.

In other words, if the United States could be peopled to their utmost sustaining capacity, we could take care of nearly two-thirds of the present population of the globe.—*St. Louis Republic*.

**Payment of Members.**

Over fifty years ago the Chartists shocked England by advocating the payment of members of Parliament, but since that time public sentiment on the subject has undergone a radical change. A resolution on the subject similar to that which was passed on Friday evening was adopted in 1893, but nothing came of it. Payment is however, not regarded by the Government as the logical outcome of the extension of the suffrage. In the people's charter which the Chartists drew up in 1838 the principles laid down were universal suffrage, the ballot, paid representatives, the abolition of the property qualification, annual Parliaments, and equal electoral districts. These principles have, with one exception been practically adopted, and the time seems now to have almost arrived when there will be no exception. In the meantime rich men can afford to serve for nothing, while poor men of talent are understood to receive allowance from the funds of their party to enable them to give the time to Parliament that otherwise they would devote to their business.—*Mail and Empire*.

**The Serious Stage.**

He knelt before her. "I love you," he protested. "Do you mean it?" "Ay." She was evidently concerned. "This is serious," she said. "I wonder whom we can get to introduce us?" "This is at the seaside, some months hence."—*Detroit Tribune*.



Dr. H. F. Merrill.

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**Snap Shots.**

Some mortals talk so much that nobody hears what they say.

If you would not excite envy, do nothing great.

Some people sympathize with others so deeply that their sympathy never seems to come to the surface.

Some people do not know the pang of love from a pain in the side.

When you see a man taking advice good-naturedly you may put it down that he has somebody picked out to whom he is going to give it.

The world is on a speculative basis. Criticism is sometimes a great advertisement.

Do not waste the time of others. It seems to be getting so that one must be wholly unnatural in order to be original.

Many people seem to have their patience and their intolerance badly mixed.—*Dallas-Galveston News*.

**Those Subscribers.**

A minister wished to ascertain what influence the hard times had upon his congregation, and said at the close of the sermon:—"I would ask everyone who still is able to pay his debts to rise from his seat."

The whole congregation arose with the exception of one man. The person then asked that all those unable to meet their bills should rise. Thereupon the aforementioned solitary individual got up, a hungry-looking, poorly-clad man, whose features revealed the terrible struggle of one fighting hopelessly against the vicissitudes of this world. The minister regarded him attentively, yet kindly "How is it, my friend," he said, "that you are the only one among all these people who cannot pay his debts?" "Sir," answered the man hesitatingly, "I publish a newspaper, and these my brothers who rose just now are all subscribers, and—" But the minister interrupted him hastily, "Let us pray," he said.

**R. W. Richardson, of Hartland.**

R. W. Richardson, of Hartland, is to the front as usual. He has leased all the upper part of the Tracey building, and has completely renovated it and repaired the store. Mr. Richardson has his spring stock on hand, and a fine assortment of it is, consisting of men's women's and children's clothing, ladies' wrappers, boots and shoes. His stock will fill the store upstairs and down.

**Better So.**

"No," said the "emancipated" young woman. "Harold I will not marry. The engagement is broken off."

"What was the trouble?" "He does not agree with me in politics, and I am compelled to believe that his ideas about housekeeping are hopelessly crude and chaotic."—*Washington Star*.

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