

The Buffalo as an Ox.

Apart from sentiment, it is becoming generally understood, perhaps for the first time, that the buffalo is capable of being converted into a farm animal, of probably greater value per head than almost any other domestic animal we have. And it seems curious that more people have not found this out before. Here is an animal, which, given a reasonably large range, is as easy to rear and less expensive to feed than domestic cattle. In the West, where there is grazing practically the year round, buffaloes will hustle for themselves, thriving where cattle would starve or freeze to death. They are wonderfully healthy creatures, and their warm coats make it possible for them to withstand the most intense cold without discomfort. Even down here in New Hampshire, far outside of the animals' former range, they require no shelter, even when the thermometer is fifty degrees below zero, and the food supplied to them during the winter months consists of hay alone. One man of the \$50 a month grade can easily take care of 200 buffaloes during the winter, and have plenty of time for other things. During the rest of the year they require no attention from anyone.

The first winter of its life, a buffalo calf in New Hampshire eats about half a ton of hay, which costs about \$4.50. The following winter it eats about a ton, and about half a ton more every winter until it reaches maturity at the age of five years. Thus, the cost of winter food which has been supplied to a New Hampshire buffalo when it reaches maturity is about \$66, and the animal is then worth, either dead or alive, from \$350 to \$500. Alive, the cows are somewhat more valuable than the bulls, for breeding purposes, but the old bulls often develop heads which sell at enormous prices for mounting.

A GOOD INVESTMENT.

And the value of a buffalo is a real value, based on demands which are likely to be permanent—demands for good beef, warm overcoats, and carriage robes which have never been equalled for warmth and durability. I am well aware that a number of specimens have been sold at \$1,000 apiece, but in rearing buffaloes for profit no one with any sense would base their calculations on prices which would seldom if ever be paid.

Some people who have undertaken the breeding of buffaloes complain that they increase very slowly. The chief cause of this slow increase lies in the fact that the calves are not weaned as they should be. They are allowed to remain with the mothers, who lose so much strength in nursing these overgrown babies for a full year or more, that they fail to have calves except about every other year. If the calves are weaned soon after birth, as domestic calves are weaned, the cows will calve as often as domestic cows, that is to say practically every year. Last spring I reared several buffalo calves on cow's milk, and those which were taken when two weeks old or younger drank readily from a bottle as soon as it was offered to them. Older calves were more difficult to teach, but after a struggle or two they learned their lesson and never forgot it.

In some cases a cow has her first calf when she is three years old; in other cases, when she is four. I know of one case where a man had nineteen calves from four cows in five years. Data concerning the age of buffaloes is not very plentiful, but a bull killed by accident in the New York Zoological Park in 1901, was known to be at least fifteen years old, and there is a cow now in the Corbin herd known to be at least twenty-one and probably is twenty-six years of age. She has an old look, but is still in good health, and has a newly born calf at this minute.

The flesh of the buffalo so closely resem-

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bles domestic beef that it is practically impossible to detect a difference, and on its merits should bring as high a price per pound. At present there is a limited market for it in the holiday season at from \$1.50 to \$2 per pound, these prices being paid chiefly by expensive hotels. The live weight of an adult buffalo cow is from 900 to 1,100 pounds, and of a buffalo bull from 1,400 to 2,000 pounds.

AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR OXEN.

The value of a buffalo as a draught animal is still an unknown quantity, but the writer hopes to have data on this subject some day. The two bull calves which he last year broke to the yoke and to harness are now about fifteen months old, and have slowly but steadily improved in conduct. They might have improved faster had they received more attention and been worked more frequently. Two weeks ago they were driven fifteen miles over steep and rugged mountain roads, hauling a small but heavily built cart containing two men, a well packed dress suit case, and a large-sized photographic outfit. They were allowed to stop and graze or drink whenever they chose, and consequently took plenty of time; but they could travel very fast when they wished to, and arrived at their destination with plenty of energy to spare. Two days later they were driven back by a somewhat longer route, and on entering the road leading to home, they deliberately broke into a gallop, at which pace they concluded the last half mile of the journey.

They will be shown at several agricultural fairs next autumn, when they will be given an opportunity to compete in trials of strength and speed with the best domestic steers of their age which can be brought onto the track with them. There is at least one man who does not believe that any yoking of yearling steers will have the ghost of a chance against them, but we shall see what we shall see.

Personally, the writer believes that the buffalo should be preserved for sentimental reasons, and these are many; but he gives the above figures for the benefit of those practical people who would work for the preservation and increase of any animal whose passing would mean financial loss to the country.

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As a result of prolonged trials and experiments by the British Admiralty, it has been decided that the main armament of the 'Dreadnought,' which is rapidly approaching completion, is to comprise ten of the new 12-inch Mark X wire-wound, breech-loading, quick-firing guns. The weapon is the most powerful that has yet been designed for naval purposes. It is 45 calibers and weighs 58 tons. The weight of the projectile is still, however, the same as in the former weapon, that is, 850 pounds, but its penetration is much greater, being through 51 inches of wrought iron at the muzzle, while its velocity is 2,900 foot-seconds. The powder charge will be 325 pounds of modified cordite. The firing capacity of this weapon is two rounds per minute. The 'Dreadnought' will be ready for steam and gunnery trials in October, by which time construction will have occupied a little more than one year.

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by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

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Good Habits.

Good habits are just as efficient in helping one to live a life of virtue as bad habits are in dragging one down to ruin. They are not so easily formed as bad habits, but, being formed, they hold one in the right path and help him forward. Labor, which is difficult at first, becomes easy by habit. Self-denials, which at first seem painful, become, to those who persevere in them, sources of the highest pleasure. Deeds of love, which, in the beginning, are contrary to our nature, in the end come freely and readily from our hearts.

Punctuality is one virtue which should become habitual with every one. That this is a matter of habit is evident from the fact that some persons are always punctual, no matter what their hindrances may be; while others are always tardy, no matter how strong may be the reasons for punctuality.

The habit of observation is a good one. A thousand curious and beautiful objects in nature present themselves daily to our vision. The world is stored with knowledge, and, if we will only keep our eyes open as we go along, we may be wise; but many pass through the world without learning anything.

Habits of benevolence should be formed. But perhaps the cause of their being so often neglected arises from the advice so often heard from elder persons, such as, "Be sparing," "Be prudent," "Lay something up for a rainy day."

We have seen persons who make money their God, but their characters are not such as we admire. The way to escape the condemnation is to make it as much a habit to give as to get, so that giving and getting may go hand in hand throughout our lives.

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NOTICE OF TENDERS.

Tenders for the extension of The Andover Water System according to plans and specifications to be seen at the office of Carter & Elliott, Andover, N. B., will be received by the undersigned up to July 23rd proximo.

C. H. ELLIOTT,
Secretary to The Andover Water Com.
Andover, N. B., June 29th, 1906. July 1, 3i.

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