

THE WEST SHORE,

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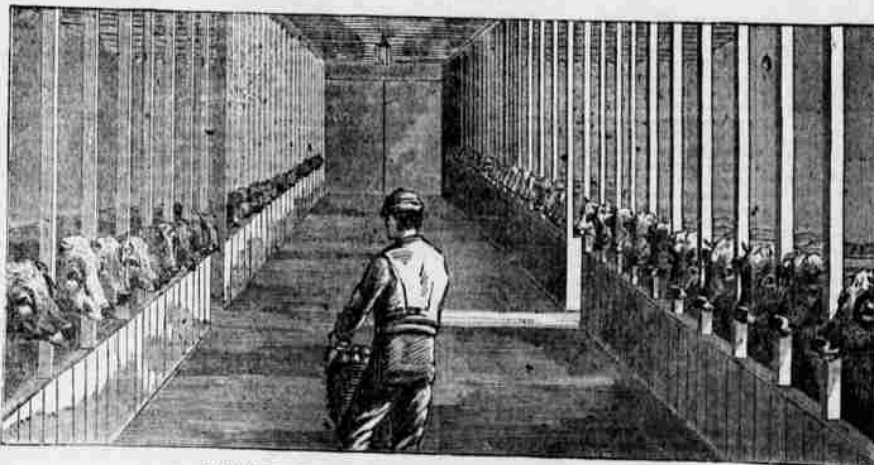
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OUR PEKIN DUCK VENTURE.

Small was our faith in Pekins. We had seen them, to be sure, at two great shows, in Buffalo, but were not favorably impressed, for though having large frames, they did not compare with Rouens and Aylesburys in weight; it was possible they had not been properly crowded when young, nor fattened for the show.



INTERIOR OF COW STABLE, ECHO FARM, CONNECTICUT.

On the eighth day, the unfertile ones were removed, and the balance, so precious and promising, were closely watched and duly sprinkled, all one day earlier than the 25th, nearly every expected egg was "pipped." Not liking to lose birds by our own neglect, every duckling was removed from the hen as soon as it was out of the shell (and sometimes a little sooner), and placed near the stove, in a small box or basket, being wrapped warmly in flannel cloths, and kept in the house till dry and lively enough to eat and drink, when they were penned and coupled with the hen. We brought out 39, all yet living. We gave them the same chance we do our Rouens and Aylesburys, which is the best we know how, and the first three or four weeks found them hardy, lively little ducks, so much smaller than others of the same age that we began to think them a "sell," but they "took a start," and imagine our surprise to see them "out-strip" all our others at six to eight weeks old. At two months old, the Pekins weighed eight lbs. to the pair, and the Rouens 7 1/2 pounds to the pair. At two months and a half old, the Pekins weighed 10 pounds and four ounces, and the Rouens 10 pounds and 14 ounces. If they keep on, we don't know at what weight they will "fetch up," or which will come out ahead. It will be necessary to keep them a year to speak adversely of all their qualities—good and bad—but at the present writing we are well pleased with them; no duckling is more strong or active, eagerly consuming mash, grain, cooked meat, scraps and vegetables, and of quiet habits, making weight in return. Ours have had no pond or stream to run to, only water to drink, still none could thrive better than they. Pekins are not as good foragers as Aylesburys, and we know of no breed that is. We shall note the growth, etc., of our different breeds of ducks, from time to time, in order to determine their qualities, and give the results of our observations to our readers. —Poultry Raisers.

MACHINE BELTING.—A specimen of gigantic machine belting, produced from the skin of the walrus or sea-horse, has recently been exhibited in London by the manufacturer, and excited much attention and interest. It is stated, in fact, says the American Manufacturer, that this belting cannot be equalled by any yet introduced for strength and durability in case of heavy work, when used upon large drums, such as main driving, and similar requirements. The thickness of the walrus hide is from one-half to one and a quarter inch, so that belts of such substance can be made longer than any other hide belts thereof being longer than any other hide used in the making, it presents the valuable advantage of being remarkably tough, and consequently very lasting. The employment of this material in the way named is, of course, not a new resort, but its importance has been only slightly realized. It is well known that, in ordinary double belting, a great strain takes place on the outside lap of the belt, which, of course, swing, of course, to its being of one thickness only; must be the case with the walrus-hide belt, it is remarked, moreover, that they run very slack, and do not require to be worked very tight, as some belts do. Indeed, such is the light on the drum, that a 14-inch belt, 90 feet long, will drive 100 horse power with ease.

A HARLEM man has a goat which he has named "Oleomargarine," because it's a poor kind of butter.

KILLING CATTLE WITH DYNAMITE.

An interesting experiment, says the Pall Mall Gazette, was made last week at a horse-slaughtering establishment at Dudley, with a view of testing a new system of slaughtering cattle by means of dynamite, and thus putting them out of existence more speedily and with less suffering than by the ordinary pole-axe.

Two large, powerful horses and a donkey (disabled for work) were ranged in a line about half a yard apart under a shed, the donkey being placed in the center. A small primer of dynamite, with an electric fuse attached, was then placed on each side of their foreheads and fastened in position by a piece of string under the jaw. The wires were then coupled up in circuit, and attached to the electric machine, which stood about five yards in front. The handle of the machine being then turned, an electric current was discharged, which exploded the three charges simultaneously, and the animals instantly fell dead without a struggle.

The whole affair was over in two minutes, and the experiment appears to have been a perfect success. It was conducted by Mr. Johnson, agent for Nobel's Explosive Company, Glasgow, assisted by Mr. Harris, one of the dynamite instructors. By this means, it is stated, any number, even a hundred or more cattle can be killed instantly by the same current of electricity. There cannot be a doubt that the present system of slaughtering cattle is open to the charge of being cruel and barbarous, and the slightest want of skill on the part of the slaughterer often subjects the unhappy beasts to horrible torture. Any attempt to extinguish life painlessly is a step in the right direction, not only as regards cattle, but as regards criminals sentenced to capital punishment, whose case equally deserves consideration.

FANCY FOWLS.—Fanny Field, in the Ohio Farmer, very sensibly says: "And now a word about buying 'fancy fowls.' Get the best every time—it don't pay to get cheap stock; it is the dearest in the end. I know, for I tried it on several different occasions. Once I paid a dollar and a half for a setting of Light Brahma eggs, and they were the dearest eggs that I ever bought. Five of them hatched, two of them were as black as the ace of spades, and of the remaining three there was not one first-class

chicken. I sold the whole lot for five cents a pound, live weight, and was glad to get rid of them at that price. At another time I sent some money to a man who advertised 'high-class' Dark Brahmas for sale, at \$4 a trio. Dark Brahmas they may have been, but they were certainly 'poor relations.' Early one morning I stole out to the henery with my 'little hatchet,' and we had a Brahma pie for dinner. I was reckless by that time, and the next day I deliberately sent \$15 to an eminent poultry breeder for a pair of Light Brahmas. I got them, too, and they were beauties. Since then I have paid high prices for good fowls, and have never regretted it. Poultry breeders who have any reputation to lose, cannot afford to send out inferior fowls or eggs, and they cannot afford to sell good stock for half price."

TAKING A BABY FOR FARE.—The Middle-town (N. Y.) Press, of recent date, says: "Conductor James Tinney, on leaving Jersey City recently, found a passenger on his train—a woman with a baby in her arms—who refused to pay her fare. Not wishing to put her off the train between two stations, being too gallant a man for that, he allowed her to ride to Paterson. At that point the woman got off, and in assisting her to alight Conductor Tinney got possession of the baby. He tucked the juvenile under his arm, and notified the woman that when she had paid her fare she could have the baby, and not before. The baby began kicking and squalling as Conductor Tinney started for the depot. The woman pursued him, pocket-book in hand, and finally paid her fare, receiving in return the baby. On opening her pocket-book it was seen that she had plenty of money, and her conduct, therefore, was execrable. The question naturally arises, what would Mr. Tinney have done if the mother had declined to pay, and walked off leaving the baby in his possession?"

SOME black ostriches are seven feet high. Their speed is that of a horse. That may be seven miles an hour, or seven hours a mile. It depends entirely on the horse.

A HARLEM man has a goat which he has named "Oleomargarine," because it's a poor kind of butter.

CAMPING ON THE POLE.

Howgate's project to establish a colony in the extreme regions of the north, and to maintain it until desirable facts are ascertained about the polar regions. This expedition was announced to sail from New London, Conn., a few days ago. The expedition is aboard the little schooner Florence, manned by ten seamen, under the command of Captain Tyson, who had the Polar in charge when it was cast upon the ice drifts three years ago.

Captain Howgate, who originated this expedition and has managed the affairs of its preparation, is an officer of the Signal Corps of the army, second in command to General Meyers, "Old Probabilities." He has the immediate charge of the Signal Service, managing its details, while General Meyers has a general supervision. Captain Howgate is a man of middle age, quiet in his manners, and very modest. His whole life has been spent in science—meteorological science especially. For nearly four years he has been devoting his leisure to the study of the subject, and the scheme he has matured and projected is to found a colony at the most accessible point in the Arctic regions, which may be the base of supplies, and the center of a grand system of exploration. He proposes to establish a colony where the men engaged in the work can acclimate themselves by actual residence to the hardships of Arctic life; from which they can penetrate the ice wilderness by easy stages, and to which they can retreat when they become disabled or their supplies give out. In this scheme he has received the encouragement of the entire scientific world, but has had to face many discouragements and difficulties in bringing it into practical operation.

Last year he had his plans fully formed, and asked of Congress an appropriation of \$50,000 to carry it into effect. The Naval Committee recommended it unanimously, but the attention of Congress was so enveloped in the matter was neglected. After the adjournment of Congress he appealed to individuals, and a subscription of \$10,000 was raised for him with which to start out a vessel to take the preliminary steps. Accompanying Captain Tyson, in addition to his crew of ten experienced men, are Mr. D. T. Sherman, of Providence, R. I., who goes as me-

eteorologist and photographer. The Smithsonian Institute is represented by Mr. Ludwig Kumlind, who goes as naturalist and geologist.

The expedition is furnished with all of the scientific instruments required. Different vehicles of locomotion are provided for overcoming the distance between the colony and the pole, and great confidence is placed in a combined raft and sledge which has recently been invented by Commodore Ammen, of the Navy Department.

The instructions of Captain Tyson are to erect comfortable quarters at the most feasible location, for which he has the timber all ready to be put together, choosing a point that will be easily accessible to vessels from the south, and also favorable to exploring trips to the north. He will employ a number of Eskimoes, a full supply of dogs, native sledges, and a quantity of fur clothing, such as the inhabitants of the region wear. During the summer the Florence will get in a cargo of bone and oil for a winter's supply, and will then return to this country, leaving the scientists encamped in the colony. By the time of her return Captain Howgate hopes to secure an appropriation from Congress with which he can equip a larger force to go as reinforcements to the colony under his personal command next summer. In the meantime the colonists will become hardened to the climate, and make such explorations as they are able.

The number of starving silk weavers in Lyons, France, has been reduced from 20,000 to 6,000. Very gratifying, we suppose; but how was it reduced?

GEO. SHERMAN says he is much impressed with the value of the country on the Upper Yellowstone river. That's what ailed Sitting Bull; his impressions were just as strong as any other man's.

"ARE you a professional or an amateur?" asked a lady of a young journalist at Long Branch. "Both, madame," he replied. "I am a journalist by profession, and I amateur service as well."

STEAM whistles were invented by a man who had a whistling wife, and he did not dare drown her, so he drowned her whistle.

DAIRY BARNS.

There is less danger of being too precise and too nice in the planning and care of dairy barns than the reverse. There is more danger of spending too little than too much upon a cow's comfort. In Eastern States there are more cows standing during the winter with snow driving upon them through chinks and crevices in sheds than recline upon warm boards in battened stables. We make these trite remarks because we are going to describe and illustrate a style of barn planning and cow comfort which exemplifies those points and policies which we have said are not in great danger of becoming too common.

Our engraving shows one portion of the interior of one of the cow stables on Echo farm, Litchfield Conn., property of F. Hatchford Starr, Esq. Readers will remember Mr. Starr as the proprietor of the Jersey bull, Litchfield, of which we recently gave a portrait. The picture shows two rows of very happy looking cows, and a wide avenue between them. The impression one gets from the engraving is that the stable is spacious, light and airy; all of which are commendable. On the other hand, there are points which seem less desirable. Viewing the matter from the standpoint of practical and profitable dairying, there would seem to be too much barn in the cow stalls which would create much more work than stanchions, both in feeding and cleaning, and a long passage-way for carrying feed down the center of the barn, when it could be so easily rolled along the row in a tram-car. With mention of these reservations we shall proceed to give our readers some notes on Mr. Starr's most elegant system of housing and caring for his animals. Col. M. C. Weld, who has visited the cow stable is immediately beneath the hay barn, occupying the full size of the building, 100x40 feet, 11 feet high. It is lighted by 18 large double-ashed windows, the sashes being hung by weights, open at top and bottom. Having the object in view, which has since been so successfully accomplished, namely, the production, both in summer and winter, of as perfect butter as possible, the accommodations for the cows are absolutely luxurious as regards freedom, purity of air, comfortable warmth and abundant light, while for ease of attendance and convenience of inspection—that the foreman and the proprietor may at a glance see if every man has done his duty—they could not be surpassed. There are stalls here for 48 cows, and a simple calculation (100 x 40 x 11 = 44,000; 48 x 917) shows that each cow has, making a liberal allowance for fixtures, posts, etc., not less than 900 cubic feet of air space, which is more than twice as much as is ordinarily considered ample. Through the center, lengthwise, there is a 10-foot passage-way between the two rows of stalls, crossing at the center of the floor another passage-way eight feet wide. They separate the floor into four divisions of 12 stalls each; and by a very convenient arrangement, by means of a few lars which are kept hanging upon wooden jugs against the posts, and which, when in use, fit into sockets and slots, the cows of each section are turned loose to go at will into the yard for water and exercise.

Through a door at the south end of the cross passage, or through the main entrance at west end, to pasture. There is, besides, a broad passage behind the cows, and conveniently wide ones across each end, so that each section is surrounded by a passage-way. The stalls are nearly five feet wide—too wide, I think; the mangers or feeding troughs about two feet wide, and the slightly sloping platform upon which the cows stand, five and one-half feet. At the rear is a gutter which holds the manure, and conducts the liquid to traps placed at convenient intervals in the gutter, through which traps the manure is dropped into the capacious nine-foot cellar, 135 feet in length by 40 in width. An abundance of pure air has been provided for in every apartment in which live stock of any kind is kept.

PNEUMATIC HOIST.—M. Blanchet, the manager of the Epinae collieries (Savoie-et-Laire), has sunk a shaft 556 yards deep and placed in it a tube formed of iron plates, in which travels a tightly packed piston capable of carrying on its upper surface a load of 10 tons. When loaded, a vacuum is made above it, and it is driven up, bringing the drawing cage with it. The fuel tips are removed and replaced by empty ones, and atmospheric pressure is applied to effect the descent of the piston. The latter is kept in place by vertical guides.

NOVEL PLATE WORK.—On the 30th of June an exhibition of novelties in connection with the metal trade, more especially plate working, was opened in the Schutzenban at Leipzig. Amongst objects exhibited were a fountain throwing a jet three feet high by means of solidly made clockwork; decorated tinplate for various purposes, capable of resisting strong heat; wire-inserters, etc. Improved tools and implements of various sorts were also exhibited.

There is one place more dear than another to the fly it is on a plate of fresh butter—unless the old man who presides at the table has a shining bald head.

We went fishing last week with a boy. Boy caught all the fish, we caught all the cold. Why do fish like boys?