

Willamette Farmer.

SALEM, FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 1876.

Description of a Draft Horse.

ED. FARMER: Your numerous correspondents have said little or nothing in your paper in regard to the weight and form of a draught horse for farmer's use as a stock horse, while I believe it to be very essential that all our farmers should observe closely, and post themselves on this kind of stock. Permit me through your paper to give a short description, or a few ideas how he should be formed. His head neither to large or small; ears rather short, but tapering well; position nearly straight; wide between the eyes; face straight, with a good tapered bony head from the eyes down; nostrils large; and the jaws spreading out rather wide, with a good sized intelligent eye; neck good length, very wide where it leaves the shoulders, with an excellent taper to the head, full on top but not heavy; large around the girth and kidneys; shoulders not too slanting, yet not too straight; very wide in the breast, and good in the fork, with long heavy muscles reaching nearly down to his knees, with a large high bony wither, running well into the back; with a full wide heavy loin; body very round and ribbed up close; hind quarters very long, not steep and yet not too straight; with a wide and heavy stifle, large and powerful above and below the hock, with a wide, clean, flat, bony leg, well tapered down, not remarkably crooked, but yet not too straight; short between hock and pastern and pastern and foot, with a good-sized round and deep one; his main and tail should be heavy, which would indicate he was of good draft stock, and he must have good action, with his legs setting true and square under him, and should stand about sixteen and a half hands high, and weigh from sixteen to eighteen hundred pounds. Such a draft horse at the present time, taking into consideration the size of the mares generally in Oregon, would, I think, be the best for farmers to patronize.

GEORGE BELSHAW.

QUESTIONS.

ED. FARMER: Will some of your correspondents tell us the best way to sow wheat and oats, on high, dry land, for a spring crop? say the land is plowed in the fall or winter—would it be best to plow it under with a shovel plow or cultivator, and then harrow to make smooth? Or would it be better to plow and then harrow the seed in, which mode would the grain stand a drouth best? and what time would be the best to sow Chilo Club wheat, or oats—February or March?

Also, how to cultivate strawberries: should the tops be cut off in the fall, and the ground spaded around them? Do they need any covering with straw to protect them in winter? Will some one who has had experience tell us how to manage them, and whether there will always be some barren ones or may that be avoided, and how?

Washington Co., Dec. 1, 1876. A. O. B.

To Beginners.

No doubt many of the readers of the Journal, however skeptical they may once have been as to the real stability of the fowl business, are beginning to realize that it is something more than a "temporary excitement," and perhaps are thinking of investing a small amount by the way of a trial trip on the "chicken line," but are unable to decide just when and how. The first thing to be done is "get information." read all poultry literature it is possible to lay hands on—the benefit of years of experience may be had by the more time spent in reading, and a well-read beginner is to a certain extent "master of the situation," and ready to take up the practical part of the business with a surety of success. He will be enabled to select one variety of fowls from the many he would like to breed. I say one variety because no one should begin with two or more, as much knowledge of the care and general management of fowls can be acquired from breeding one variety as of several, and the danger of getting "things mixed" is avoided. Make a success of one breed, and my experience is, there will be no desire to add another.

If one begins business with the first impulse of the fever, he will be likely to add one breed after another, till his yards assume the appearance of dealer more than breeder. To see three or four different breeds of chickens in one yard, though they may be of the finest stock in the country, detracts from the fancy and makes them appear common. The owner will sooner or later proclaim the fowl business foul, and quit it in disgust. The difficulty was he went ahead before making sure he was right, when if he had reversed the order, he might have achieved success. Make haste slowly and remember it is more profitable and far more satisfactory to be an expert in one variety than a novice in ten or a dozen.

Of the two ways of commencing, either to visit or eggs, the surest is fowls. Consult the advertising columns of the Journal, and correspond with breeders keeping the variety you wish to purchase, and get their prices. Order from a breeder you are satisfied is reliable, and buy the best. Cheap birds are the dearest stock that can be bought, and a breeder that offers fowls at a mere nominal value—I take it as a criterion of his stock and let him alone, for good birds do not go begging for buyers at fair remunerative prices.—A. A. Wainworth in Southern Poultry Journal.

It is said by the London correspondent of the Liverpool "Courier" that the late Lord Palmer on predicted Mr. Gladstone will die in a madhouse.

TERRIBLE DISASTER! Brooklyn Theater Burnt!

350 Lives Lost!

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—The Brooklyn theater was burned to-night, originating during the performance of "The Two Orphans." The panic was terrible. Dieter's restaurant, adjoining, was totally destroyed, and the postoffice slightly damaged. The theater was owned by Kingsley, Keeney and others and was rented to Shock & Palmer, of Union Square theater, New York. Loss, about a quarter of a million dollars. At 1 o'clock the fire was still burning, but under control. The gas set the wood work on fire. An actress attempted to reassure the audience, but failed. Numbers jumped from the windows and were seriously injured.

New York, Dec. 6.—The fire in Brooklyn theater last night was attended by appalling loss of life. In five minutes more the audience would have been dismissed, and there would have been nothing more serious to record than the destruction of the property. The house was about two thirds full, and had been sitting well forward toward the stage. For instance, in the family circle, dress circle and galleries, there was no way of escape except by Washington street. The panic-stricken people rushed pell-mell towards and down the stairways. The main exit became immediately choked up and a scene of terror, confusion and distress ensued, which beggars description. Just above the landing place of the stairway, a woman in the crush had her feet pushed between the balusters and fell, the crowd being forced forward by the terrified people still further behind, fell over her, and piled on top of each other four or five feet deep. The police from the station house next door were promptly at the scene, but owing to the manner in which people were piled upon the top of each other and matted together, they could extricate comparatively few, and these were all bruised, bleeding and maimed. These firemen got to work on the ruins, and shortly after daylight this morning they succeeded in getting as far as the wall of the dress circle, where they found a great number of bodies, and immediately began the work of removal.

When the panic occurred on the main floor of the theater, Thos. Rockford, chief usher of the establishment, was in the lobby. The performance was almost over, and he was about making arrangements for departure of the audience. At the crisis of fire, he rushed into the auditorium, and taking in the terrible situation, endeavored to quiet the people about him; seeing they were too thoroughly alarmed, he ran to the doors leading into Float's alley, which connects with Johnson street, and Myrtle avenue, and opened them so the people might escape that way. This diverted many from seeking escape through the main entrance. All who were on the right hand side of the parquet and balcony escaped, and shortly after daylight the opening of the doors created a tremendous draught, which so increased the flames that the players were compelled to abandon the stage and escape as best they might. They had remained there to the last, but seeing that it was now a question of life and death, they retreated. The flames shot out on all sides of the stage, enveloped the proscenium, and smoke began pouring in volumes into the parquette. Burroughs and Murdoch were the last to leave. Probably not more than five minutes elapsed between the beginning of the panic and envelopment of the stage and parquette in flames. By this time nearly all of those in the lower part of the house had escaped. The crowd from above came pouring down into the lobby which were soon densely crowded. The stairways were choked up, and there seemed to be no way in which they could be relieved. Many succeeded in escaping by the regular means of egress into Washington Street, but that the staircase was also soon crowded, and escape by that way was impossible. The greatest loss of life must have been among those in the family circle or top gallery. Those who happened to be seated near the doors succeeded in gaining the stairways and lower part of the house, but there were many who got no further than the second floor where they died. The flames made such rapid headway that the floors fell in before assistance could reach them. The shrieks of women, and shouts and imprecations of men, and pitiful cries of children were heard below, but there was no human relief for their heartrending situation. To have human beings perish almost in sight of their fellows is something terrible beyond description. There were two hundred persons in the theater, and five hundred in the galleries.

This evening, notwithstanding the popularity of Miss Muller in the latest play at Union Square theater, the proprietors ordered that theater to be closed and a placard draped in mourning was placed at the entrance, stating that in consequence of the terrible disaster in Brooklyn there would be no performance this evening.

At a late hour last night 285 bodies had been recovered. The city authorities are in session to make arrangements for interment in Greenwood cemetery of the dead not identified.

The Times says Fire Marshal Kennedy, who has made an exhaustive examination of the circumstances attending the fire, is of opinion that at least 350 persons perished in the flames.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—The fire at Brooklyn dwarfs the Presidential question. All the journals' pages are devoted to details, though scarcely anything is known not already telegraphed. The dimensions of the awful calamity which has befallen the city of Brooklyn and consequent loss of life have not yet been realized. Enough is known, however, to make it certain that the catastrophe ranks among the most fatal ever recorded. According to the statements of all parties who profess to know anything as to the origin of the fire, it began on the stage. The business manager says a piece of canvass of which trees were made was broken from its fastenings and hung from the flies immediately over one of the border lights near the center of the stage. The canvass had begun to smoulder and the paint on it to crackle, and the carpenter was directed to ascend to one of the grooves and remove the dangerous object. He could barely reach it with his hand, and he drew it hastily up, and the rapid motion through the air of the half ignited and highly inflammable canvass, spread it to burst into flame, which rapidly caused to the adjoining material, equally susceptible. All efforts to extinguish the flames were abortive, and the carpenter had to retire to save his own life.

The scene in the gallery after the alarm was raised was heartrending and horrible. Brooklyn, Dec. 7.—At the Adams street morgue the scene is horrible. Many charred bodies lay on the floor which could neither be identified nor distinguished as male or female. "My God!" said one poor woman, gazing at a mass of charred bones, "that may be my boy, but who can prove it." The remains, of Dr. Franklin, dentist, on Portland avenue, were recognized by initials on the shirt collar. Capt. Crofts reports a distressing case. Mrs. Smith, a widow lady, and her daughter, Mrs. Simpson, who left their residence Tuesday evening to attend the theater, leaving a servant girl and an adopted orphan child alone in the house. Neither have returned, and, having no

friends in the city, cannot be identified. Mrs. Simpson's husband was expected home from a long voyage on Saturday. The undertakers are very busy, and the police with difficulty keep the streets in the vicinity of the morgue clear of the passage of vehicles. Piteful scenes are occurring every hour. Two hundred and ninety-seven bodies have been put in the morgue. The mortality will probably reach 350. The aldermanic burial committee reports that 188 bodies were at the Adams street morgue and 96 at the city morgue at 11 o'clock to-day.

New York, Dec. 8.—The Tribune says the number of dead by the Brooklyn disaster, officially reported by the coroner, is 292. The precise total will probably never be known, owing to the fact that dismembered limbs of many were scattered in the process of digging in the ruins. The number identified and removed up to last evening was 178. The lists show a total of 370 identified and missing, but it is impossible to avoid duplication in many instances, and this will account for the unnatural excess. Many bodies will have to be buried at once without further attempts at identification, as putrefaction has already set in. The coroner's jury was yesterday empaneled and commenced an investigation. Preparations for private interment of many bodies were begun yesterday, and arrangements for the burial of the uninterred at public expense will probably be made to-day.

New York, Dec. 8.—Brooklyn is literally walking in the valley of the shadow of death. Funerals of such of the victims of the disaster as have been identified is taking place, and the streets in every part of the city are moving, bearing remains to the cemeteries. About 45 men are at work on the ruins, and it is hoped the full extent of the calamity will be definitely ascertained within the next 24 hours. They have not succeeded in uncovering the dress circle, and it is therefore still uncertain how many, if any, of the spectators in it perished. One more body was found this morning in the parquette. Eighty bodies are still in the morgue and 83 in Adams street morgue. Parts of some of the corpses have crumbled and look like heaps of soil. The carbolic acid is poured over them hourly by order of the board of health. Chloride of lime is scattered about the floor, and the decomposing of legs and trunks increase the offensiveness of the place. The coroner made further post mortem examinations to-day. Physicians believe the great part of the deaths were caused by suffocation.

Before the Marshal, Keady, John Boyle testified he was in the gallery when the alarm was given. About a hundred got out before he did. He testified the fire broke out in the flies over the stage. Murdoch requested all to be seated. He saw others sit down and saw flakes of fire falling on the stage. He thought it was part of the play. He started out when it increased. Some one fell from the gallery and he saw the flames and the rush of the fire and smoke came like a whirlwind. People were panic stricken, crying that the stairs were falling, and for God's sake for some one to let them out. Not over 75 people got out. Perhaps 50 women were in the gallery.

Charles Adams testified that he first saw the fire from the dress circle in the scenery in the left corner of the stage. He described the first alarm and actors' apoplexy. Finally Mr. Stindley said "Go quickly!" and they rushed out. Witness was knocked down. Saw several ladies knocked down. Every body was in a panic. The crowd rushed over prostrate women. If the audience had been requested to leave quietly when the fire first broke out, they might all have been saved. Witness thought some failed to get out of the dress circle. He heard no stairs break. M. E. Richardson was in the gallery. The panic occurred when the alarm was given. All rushed for the door. At the first landing, near the box office, witness fell on a man who stumbled, and it seemed as though all who followed fell on that heap. The place was dark and the smoke came in volumes on his face, but being familiar with the stairs he got up and found his way out. He looked down and saw nobody coming down the gallery after him. They were all piled in a heap near the box office. The stage door was shut and on fire. The panic and want of better means of exit prevented people from escaping. He did not believe 100 people of the 400 or 500 in the gallery got out. Charles Holloway was in the gallery, and after numerous adventures jumped over the heads of the people and was at the ticket office when the lights went out. He found two piles of women on the stairs in the dark apparently dead. The fire burned his ear and nearly suffocated him.

CHEMISTRY AND PLANTS.—Prof. Drabard, in a paper read before the Potomac Fruit Growers' Association, on the "Food and Diet of Plants," concludes as follows:

"The sources of plant food may be gathered from some analyses and contrasts. Plants feed on Carbonic acid, animals give it off. Plants decompose carbonic acid, water, ammonia, etc., animals produce them. Plants produce nitrogenized compounds—albumen, gluten, casein, etc., animals live upon them. Plants also produce non-nitrogenized compounds—starch, sugar, green oil, and acids, animals consume them. Plants endow mineral matters with properties of life, animals deprive them of these properties. Plants impart to chemical atoms the power to nourish animals, these reduce organic matter to a condition suited for the support of plants. Plants convert simple into complex forms, animals convert complex into simple. The plant is an apparatus for deoxidation, the animal an instrument of oxidation. The plant is a mechanism of construction, the animal a mechanism of reduction. The plant absorbs heat and electricity, the animal produces them.

MODIFYING FLAVORS IN FRUIT.—In relation to this subject, the London Journal of Horticulture says: "Many, if not all sorts of pears, are immensely improved by being subjected to a temperature of 100 degrees for an hour or two previous to being eaten. To take the best kinds of fruit direct from the fruit room, which may not be half a dozen degrees above the freezing point, is not doing justice to the fruit, or, I must add, to the owner. Let any one test fruits of any good sort of apples and pears, some 'stingy cold' and others artificially warmed, and note the superiority of the latter, which is to my mind conclusive."

The suit of Moreland (for the Willson heirs) against Marion county, for possession of the Court-House block, was tried before Judge Deady, and the jury again rendered a verdict in favor of the county.

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