

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN
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CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED



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FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

Not in recent years has there been so serious an outbreak of the dreaded foot and mouth disease as that which has lately broken out in New York and Pennsylvania and has more recently made its appearance in Michigan, a fact that would point to the likelihood of its spread to other western states. The three states mentioned have been placed under strict quarantine, and everything possible is being done by the federal and respective state veterinary authorities to keep the plague in check. While the actual mortality from the disease in this country has been quite low, owing to the rigid quarantine regulations which have been enforced, it has nevertheless caused great losses to dairy and live stock interests in various states. The malady is especially infectious, attacking nearly all species of domestic and wild animals and even human beings, being contracted by them through handling the affected animals and by children through drinking quantities of the unboiled milk. In both animals and human beings the symptoms of the disease are similar. There are fever and difficulty in swallowing, followed by the appearance of blisters in the mouth. In the case of cattle there is a feverish, painful and swollen condition of the feet, followed in from twenty-four to forty-eight hours by the appearance of numerous vesicles or water blisters, varying in size from a pea to a hazelnut, on the feet and in the mouth. The internal organs may be attacked before there is any appearance of the disease externally. In mild cases recovery usually takes place in from ten to twenty days, while in the more severe it may require from three months to a year. The mortality from the disease is not great, running from 1 to 3 per cent in mild and as high as 5 per cent in severe outbreaks.

SILAGE AS A RATION FOR SHEEP.

We are in receipt of a query from a reader of these notes owning a stock farm in Sangamon county, Ill., asking for some data relative to the feeding or fattening of sheep partly or largely on ensilage. Not having had experience along this line, the writer referred the question to the animal husbandry department of the Iowa State college at Ames and received a reply from the assistant in the department, E. T. Robbins, containing a summary of the station's sheep feeding experiments. He says that very little has been done along the line of feeding silage to sheep in this or any other country. Experiments in sheep feeding carried on by the Iowa station, the results of which are as yet unpublished, show that a larger gain results when the silage is fed than with dry feed alone and that the gain is cheaper when the silage is fed in combination. It has been found that sheep will eat but limited quantities of silage, from one to three pounds per day, and that they will eat as much hay when provided a ration of it as they will when fed hay alone. The same grain ration should be given the sheep having a silage ration as when they are getting dry feed. At the station corn is fed alone if clover or alfalfa is the roughage, while if prairie hay or a mixed hay containing a large per cent of timothy is fed cottonseed meal or oilmeal is fed with the corn at the ratio of one part to three of corn to supply the needed protein, in which both wild and timothy hay are largely lacking. Should any reader of these notes have had more extensive experience than that given above in the matter of feeding silage to sheep we would be pleased to give the results of their experience.

THE BOY PAID.

Not long since, in the course of a conversation with a warm hearted sensible mother, reference was made to her sixteen-year-old son, who stood a head taller than herself and in whom she clearly evinced a justifiable pride. She replied by saying that some folks raised the question whether boys and girls paid, but that in her own case she found the boy had paid well from the start and was giving a good return every day on the investment made in him. While we had no way of knowing except from superficial observation, it is more than likely that boy paid because a thoughtful, sympathetic mother felt a kindly and companionable interest in him, making him feel that he amounted to something and was really worth while. It is fair to assume, too, that a father who feels a real interest in the aims and ambitions of his boy and who is one of his best friends has had a good deal to do in making him a paying proposition in the best meaning of the term.

Just at present the removal of the tariff on hides is of slight concern to the farmer who is feeding sixty cent corn to forty cent steers and throwing in the hide as a sort of bonus to tickle the packers.

Whole ear corn fed to the milk cow makes an excellent ration when supplemented with clover hay, corn fodder and a moderate ration of bran and oilmeal. The digestive apparatus of the cow will extract about all the nutriment that the whole corn contains except the starch or fat former, and if hogs follow not even this element is lost.

While silage as a fermented form of vegetable food seems to date back to antiquity, the utilization of it in recent times dates from the year 1876, when a Maryland feeder by the name of Francis Morris put a quantity of whole corn in a trench and covered it with earth. On removing it he found it in a fair state of preservation and observed that stock ate it with a relish. From such crude beginning the present widespread silage interest has developed.

A contributor in a leading engineering magazine, who has made a study of water power in this country, places the amount which is at present utilized for industrial purposes at 2,050,000 horsepower. According to his estimate, 10,000,000 horsepower is going to waste in the waterfalls and running streams of the country, equal to an annual consumption of steam fuel amounting to 150,000,000 tons. So long as this situation exists the question of the conservation of our natural resources may be justly viewed as a very live topic.

The kind of cows the dairyman should aim to secure for his herd—this on the idea that he has a definite financial object in view and does not plan to maintain a sort of bovine charitable establishment—are not those that may be bought at a bargain counter price, but those rather whose owners want to keep them and will only part with at a stiff price. While there is an old saw that one should not look a gift horse in the mouth, this should not prevent a fellow from inquiring pretty closely into the milking record—quantity and quality—of the cow which may be had for a song.

In attending the farmers' institutes during the coming months it would be a wise plan for those who would derive the most benefit from the discussions in which they are especially interested to have a notebook and pencil and jot down the most valuable data presented and the best points brought out. For one who is not used to it this may seem a little difficult at first, but in any event enough data will be got to make it well worth while. If points brought out by any speaker are not made sufficiently plain a hearer is always justified in asking for a repetition so that the full force and meaning of a statement may be obtained. Institute speakers would appreciate this sort of attention and would do all they could to help the good work along.

One of the chief drawbacks connected with taking up the extensive culture of sugar beets in what is usually understood as the corn belt grows out of inability in most sections to secure the amount of help needed during the critical period of thinning and cultivation, a season when the other farm crops make their most insistent demands. Exactly the same problem would arise were the raising of onions to be taken up on a corresponding scale. Both require an intensive type of culture in which a degree of hard work is required that is simply out of the question on the average farm where the staple cereal products and live stock interests are given a primary attention. This statement is not intended to discourage any from embarking in the culture of sugar beets, but simply for the purpose of calling attention to the most serious and really the only drawback connected with the agricultural phase of the sugar beet industry.

Not the least of the obstacles tending to prevent the adoption of effective measures for stamping out the plague of tuberculosis in cattle is found in the financial loss which many fear they would be subjected to were a widespread campaign of eradication to be inaugurated. While this may be a perfectly natural attitude for those to take who would suffer greatest financial loss as a result, it typifies a class of influences which almost always lie at the bottom of serious opposition to needed reform movements, whether affecting the moral, political or physical well being of the people. It is an attitude that is dictated by selfish rather than humane or patriotic motives. However, the attitude which is taken by a number of high minded agricultural writers is that if tuberculosis exists in a herd it will be cheaper in the long run to adopt strict measures to eradicate it root and branch than to temporize for the sake of expediency and let matters go from bad to worse, which from the very nature of things is the only course they can take. In cases like this, where the public health is so vitally involved, there would seem to be but one course for reasonable and fair minded dairymen to pursue. They can easily decide what this course is by putting themselves in the consumers' place.

F. E. Trigg

SIR HORACE PLUNKETT.

Distinguished Visitor From Abroad Who is an Authority on Agriculture. The Right Hon. Sir Horace Curzon Plunkett, who recently paid a visit to President Elect Taft at Augusta, Ga., is head of the Irish department of agriculture and was knighted by King Edward VII. in 1903 for his services in educational and agricultural matters. The object of his visit to Mr. Taft, as explained by the latter, was to ascertain to what extent the next president is interested in the question involved in the conservation of the natural resources of the country and to

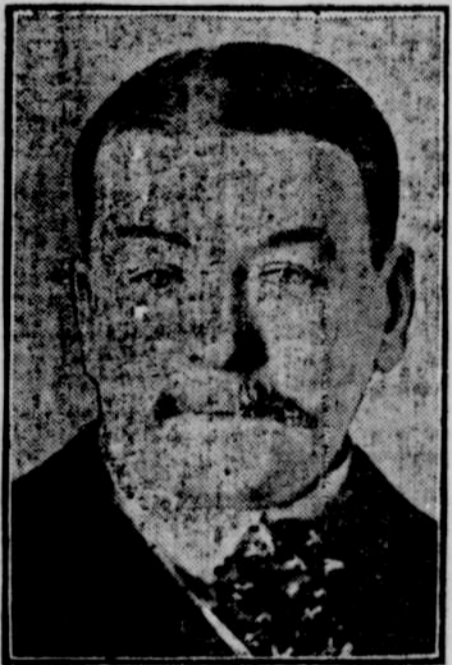


THE RIGHT HON. SIR HORACE CURZON PLUNKETT.

learn what has been accomplished by the Roosevelt commission charged with the duty of reporting on how the comforts of rural life may be increased. Sir Horace has been making a close personal study of the work of Chief Forester Pinchot and expressed himself as both highly pleased and greatly benefited by what had been demonstrated to him in this country. The distinguished subject of King Edward was born in 1854 and is a son of the sixteenth Baron of Dunsany. He is a graduate of Oxford, from which he has received the honorary degree of D. C. L., and is a fellow of the Royal society. He founded the Irish Agricultural Organization society in 1894, has been a member of parliament and has served on various boards in the interest of Irish affairs, besides having published works relating to Ireland.

HOLDS IMPORTANT POST.

Rear Admiral Newton E. Mason and the Bureau of Ordnance. When Secretary Newberry took up the work of making needed changes in the organization of the navy department he brought into special prominence the bureau of ordnance, of which Rear Admiral Newton E. Mason is the head. The secretary's order dissolving the old board of construction and constituting a complete reorganization of this branch of the service, including many innovations in the working plans of the board, put exceptional responsibility on Admiral Mason's office. The admiral is peculiarly fitted for the position he occupies and indeed, has rare aptitude for the particular line of naval work in which he is engaged. His experience while stationed at the Indian Head proving grounds and again at the torpedo station at Newport resulted in his acquiring invaluable practical knowledge bearing on the very kind of work of which he is now in charge. Born in Monroeton, Pa., Admiral Mason entered the Naval academy July 24, 1865, and graduated in 1869. After serving on several of the men-of-war of the old navy on regular duty and



REAR ADMIRAL NEWTON E. MASON. special cruises Admiral Mason was in 1896 commissioned lieutenant commander of the armored cruiser Brooklyn and saw active service in that capacity during the Spanish war. Since the close of the war the admiral has been chiefly occupied with ordnance work at the League Island navy yard, San Francisco, Newport, R. I., and the bureau of ordnance in Washington.

Imitation.

"He is learning to play golf."
"I thought he didn't care for the game."
"Nor does he, but he is a candidate for a postmastership."

He Was On.

"Looking for work?"
"Yes."
"Where you looking?"
"Where I know it isn't. Do you take me for a chump?"

Could Do It.

It was a mean trick, but, then, that is the kind that's usually successful. "That dog," said the owner, "will bring me anything I send him for, and I am willing to bet on it." Straightway a bet was arranged, and then the manager of the billiard hall suggested that he would like to have the pool table brought to him. "Certainly," answered the owner of the dog, and he pointed to the table and said, "Fetch it!" The dog raced around it once or twice and then grabbed a pocket and tore it off. "Hold on!" cried the billiard man. "He'll ruin the table." "Of course," answered the owner of the dog, "but if you give him time he'll get it all over here. You didn't suppose he could bring it in one trip, did you?" But the billiard man paid the bet.

Christening the Baby.

A north country parson thought it absurd that a working class woman should wish to christen her child "Laura Winifred Gwendolyn Genevieve." "My good woman, what a ridiculously long and fanciful name!" he protested. "Why not choose something simpler—Sarah, for instance? That is my own wife's name." "Ah, yes, Sarah's all very well for a parson's wife, but I hope my little gal will look a bit higher than that," answered the woman readily. The astonished parson thereupon performed the ceremony without further comment.—London Telegraph.

The Retort Courteous.

Professor Bates was quizzing a student named Pond, who seemed to know nothing of the subject in hand. "Are there no fish in this pond this morning?" he exclaimed at length. "Yes, professor," replied the student, "but the Bates no good."—Lippincott's.

Not Quite.

"I sleep with your letters under my pillow," the modern lover wrote. Then he yawned and muttered to himself: "At least I go to sleep over the letters. I suppose it's the same thing."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

His Board.

Sam Sparks—Oh, yo' ain't de only seed in de sunflower. Der's lots ob uddeb gals dat hab called me "Sugah" befo' Ah ebek heard ob yo'. Beinda Sparks—Well, man, if dey called yo' "Sugah" dey sholy must hab meant loaf sugah.—Chicago News.

An Old Timer.

"He's an old newspaper man."
"About how old?"
"Well, he can remember when they only issued extras when something happened."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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