

FUNNY POINTS IN LAW

Old Problems With Which Courts Have Had to Wrestle.

A QUEER QUESTION OF TIME.

Curious Provision In an Eccentric Man's Will Upon Which Hangs the Settlement of an Estate—Are Duck Eggs Eggs, and Is Skimmed Milk?

One of the strangest problems ever submitted to the decision of the law was that growing out of the disposition of the property of an Englishman, the father of twin sons. It appears that this eccentric owned extensive tracts of land in Australia, the great part of which he stipulated in his will should go to the first of the two sons to attain the age of twenty-one years.

The younger of the sons had emigrated to Australia, while his brother remained in England, it so happening that they were in opposite quarters of the globe when they came of age. The fine point involved in the case was this: Australian time is some hours in advance of Greenwich, and therefore the claim was made that the young man in Australia reached his majority before his brother at home had done likewise. Which of the two brothers was legally entitled to the property? The question is yet unsettled and bids fair to afford employment for the exercise of lawyers' wits for many years to come.

Another hard nut for the lawyers to crack was presented by a case tried in Indiana some years ago. The question was in substance, Are eggs eggs, or are only hens' eggs eggs? Ludicrous as this may seem, the point involved some nice shades of meaning in these words, sufficient indeed to carry the case through several courts.

A man had ordered of his grocer one dozen eggs. He sent ducks' eggs. These were returned as not being what the customer had asked for, but the grocer refused to take them back. The customer, in turn, declined to receive the eggs, and they were sent back and forth so frequently for several days, during which they became bad, that finally the grocer deemed himself justified in entering suit against the customer for the value of the goods.

The magistrate before whom the case was first tried ordered the customer to pay, declaring, ridiculous as it may seem, that ducks' eggs were as much eggs as any others. The man appealed from this, and the next court reversed the decision on the ground that such an order as the one in question tacitly implied hens' eggs, it being pointed out that if any other contention was allowed any kind of eggs might be sent, such as pigeons' eggs, or even snakes' eggs. That settled it.

In a case in a southern court this interesting question once came up: Are the grandchildren of a man also his children? In the legal sense this question is not so funny as it seems, inasmuch as it has been seriously contended not only in the United States, but in Great Britain as well, what they are.

Is skimmed milk milk? This point grew out of a case tried in Arkansas not very long ago. A man had asked at a dairy for a glass of milk to drink and was given skimmed milk, for which at the customer's complaint, the dairyman was fined. In a higher court, however, this decision was reversed, it being contended that skimmed milk was really much more milk than milk that was not skimmed, for the reason that the latter contained something that was not milk at all—viz, cream.

Some of the oddest points in law are those growing out of the tender passion. A judge in a western court was once called on to determine the hour at which evening courtship should cease. The circumstances were these: A merchant had become much concerned at the late hour at which his daughter's lover lingered with her at the parental abode and so sought the aid of the law to expedite the young man's time of departure.

In delivering his decree the learned judge declared that 11 o'clock p. m. was the latest hour at which any young man, fiancé or not, should be tolerated in the young woman's home and that after such hour the parents would be entirely justified in forcibly ejecting him.

A queer case once turned up in a New England town. A young man had embraced his sweetheart so vigorously that he seriously injured her ribs. If he suffered any mental anguish as the result of this contretemps, so likewise did he suffer in pocket, for as the result of an action brought against him by the young woman the youth was fined in the sum of \$500 damages for the injury done the girl's ribs.

New England also affords this amusing case: A young Lothario of Maine during the course of his courtship was each evening hospitably entertained at supper by his sweetheart. Some time afterward, his ardor cooling, the young man sought other fields to conquer. Then what should the young woman do but sue the young man who had been so bountifully entertained for obtaining the suppers on false pretenses. And, what is more, she succeeded in getting a judgment.—Edwin Tarriso in New York Tribune.

An Exception.

Little Joe—Say, papa, is it true that history repeats itself? Papa—So they say, my boy. Little Joe—Well, mine don't when I'm trying to learn to exchange.

Men do less than they ought unless they do all that they can.—Cassidy.

IN CASE OF A FIRE.

How to Gather Up and Save Household Goods.

Having had experience in several fires, the writer of the following article has learned many things that would be well for every one to remember when a house is on fire. Be sure no child or pet animal is shut in any room. Save, first of all, the money and valuable papers unless they are in a fireproof safe. Next in importance is the wearing apparel. The easiest way to save it is to tie up bundles of clothes in the quilts from the beds. Empty the closets and bureau drawers in this way. It is quickly done, and the bundles are convenient to carry. In each bundle some breakable object, such as a clock, mirror or picture, may be placed and will usually escape unbroken. Empty satchels and bags are handy to gather up the silver in, and if the keys happen to be with them so much the better.

If you have valuable bric-a-brac, take a clothes hamper or basket into the parlor and pack the delicate things between the cushions that are always plentiful about the house. Choice bits of cut glass or china may be hastily packed in a basket between tablecloths and napkins. Pillows, mattresses and rugs can be thrown from the upper windows and carried away by those below, thus saving time. Books are difficult to save on account of their weight unless you are so fortunate as to have sectional bookcases, when two careful people can carry them out unharmed.

How to Make Columbia Cake.

To make a Columbia cake, mix in the usual way four ounces of butter, one pound loaf sugar, three-quarters pound of flour, a cupful of milk, three eggs, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar and half a teaspoonful of carbonate of soda and then divide the mixture into two portions. Divide one part again into two portions and bake in two shallow round tins. Add to the other half a cupful of raisins, seeded and chopped, a tablespoonful of golden syrup or good molasses if procurable, one-quarter pound citron and one teaspoonful each of cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and allspice and an additional spoonful of flour. When well mixed pour into a round buttered tin the same size as the others and bake. The plain portions will require about fifteen minutes in a fairly hot oven and the fruit portion a few minutes longer. When all are done and while still hot, place the fruit cake between the two plain layers, spreading a little currant jelly on the top of each. When cold cover with white icing and ornament according to taste.

How to Care For Goldfish.

The secret of success in caring for goldfish is to keep the water they are in fresh and sweet. Their globe should be emptied and its water renewed as often as every second day. Lift each fish out gently in a glass full of water, empty the globe, wash it out, then put in fresh water and put the fish back again. Clear, sweet rainwater should be used, and its temperature should be raised to 75 or 80 degrees by warming a part of it. Sparkling well water is too cold for the fish to thrive in and too pure, for the animalculae of rainwater form an important part of the food of these fish. They need no other sustenance than a very few bread-crumbs sprinkled in their water daily, for overfeeding will kill them very quickly.

How to Tell Good Cheese.

A cheese with an indication of goodness will have an even colored, not a mottled, rind. The moment you press your finger tips in the rind you can begin to judge of the interior makeup of a cheese. If it yields readily to the pressure of the fingers and the rind breaks or does not spring back readily when the pressure is withdrawn, you have got a soft article, caused by the slack cooling of the curd, a want of acid, or both. At best it will have an insipid flavor and will "go off" as it ages. A good cheese will be mellow to the touch, yet firm. Its rind will be of an even tint, elastic and free from puffs, and the sample will reveal firm, close grained, buttery cheese of a nutty flavor.

How to Freshen Potted Ferns.

It is said that ferns may be kept fresh by giving them a steaming of three hours. Once every week or so they should be put into the bathroom, shutting all windows and doors of the room to keep in the steam. The bathtub should then be filled with hot water. It will give out a good steam. The room should not be cooled suddenly after this is done. By treating the ferns to this bath it is not necessary to wash and spray the leaves, which does not give so satisfactory a result.

How to Get Rid of Roaches.

If roaches appear in rooms, sprinkle the floors well with borax. Wipe all closet shelves and floor with a strong solution of alum water, two pounds of the alum dissolved in a gallon of boiling water. If the roaches are in the kitchen, set the following trap for them: Mix a strong decoction of common poke root with an equal quantity of black molasses boiled to a sirup. Spread upon bread and place near the crevices frequented by the bugs. They will eat it greedily and then die.

How to Hang Decorative Plates.

If you wish to hang a large platter or plaque fasten three or four picture hooks in place at regular intervals over the edge with wire instead of using the "plate hangers" of the shops. For small plates, etc., use medium sized dress hooks and fasten with wire in the same way.

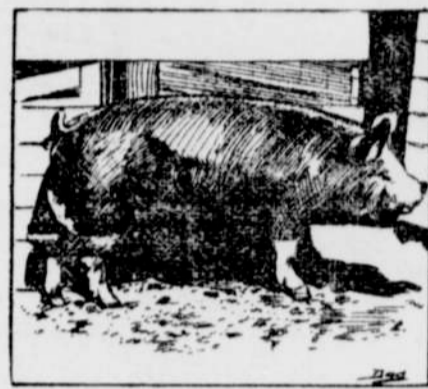
THE BERKSHIRES.

Considered by Professor Hoffman the Most Profitable of All Breeds.

There are hogs, big, little, red, black, white and mixed, a large field to select from, says Professor R. C. Hoffman of the Iowa Agricultural college, but to the thinking farmer it is often a question as to which breed is the best. First one kind is tried, then another, then perhaps an out-cross, with the result that correct impressions regarding the final results are impossible. The only correct way is to try the different breeds and crosses under like conditions and for two or three years in succession. This is absolutely the only way to determine the best hog.

My own experience of seven years with hogs has led me to breed the Berkshire hog as the most profitable of all breeds. Six years ago it was my pleasure as well as profit to have in charge the six different breeds of hogs at the Iowa Agricultural college. Here the hogs were given the same care and feed. In my observations of the different breeds I found that the Berkshire hog was always ready for the feed, good at taking care of himself with cattle and made the most of the pastures. They always looked the sleekest, and the scales showed that they were doing the best.

From the college I went to Illinois and took charge of one of the largest



A YOUNG BERKSHIRE BOAR.

and best herds of Poland-Chinas in the world. This herd contained some of the finest and highest priced Poland-Chinas in the country, but six months of actual contact, day and night, with this herd only fixed more firmly in my mind that the Berkshire hog was the best of them all.

Since farming for myself I have had in the feed lot Poland-Chinas, Chester Whites, Duroc Jerseys and the Yorkshires alongside of the Berkshire hog of my own breeding. I never had a Berk that went down on his back trampled by the steers or run over by the wagon, and when it came to marketing I found that the Berkshire hog was the first that was ready for the market.

Counting Farm Animals.

The number of animals on the farms of the United States on Jan. 1, according to a report issued by the department of agriculture, shows an increase compared with the previous year, with two exceptions—swine and cattle other than milk cows. The average price of milk cows shows an increased value of \$1.70 per head, and sheep show a decreased value of 45 cents per 100 pounds and swine an increase of 50 cents. Comparisons of this year with last year show the following changes: Horses increased 648,000 head, mules increased 184,000, milk cows 526,000, other cattle decreased 694,000, sheep increased 1,493,000, and swine decreased 1,937,000.

Clean Hogpens.

One of the surest signs of improved agriculture is a dry, clean hogpen. The up to date farmer has discovered that a pig wallows in mire only when he cannot help himself.

THE VETERINARY.

An abundance of sunlight in the cow stables so arranged that it may reach every part of the stable is one of the best preventives of disease. When possible the cow stables should be separate from the barn in order to secure proper ventilation and the necessary sunlight which it is impossible to obtain in any other way.

Cure For Mange.

Mange is a distressing affection that should never be permitted to retain a place on any farm, as it is easily cured. Rub on oil of tar, one ounce, and whale oil, two ounces, or one-half pound each of tar and sulphur and one pound each of soap and alcohol. In all cases boil all blankets and treat with a strong solution of caustic potash all wood-work, harness, brushes, combs and whatever is possibly infested with the germs of mange.

Blood Purifier For Horses.

A good blood purifier for a horse that is run down is an ounce of hypsulphite of soda twice a day. Feed the horse well. Another remedy is two ounces each of powdered copperas, ginger, saltpeter and fenugreek and half a pound of ground gentian. Mix and give a teaspoonful in each feed.

Scours In Calves.

There is no surer cause of scours than dirty feed pails. Be scrupulously clean as to pails, troughs and the food used in feeding young calves. It will save a lot of the trouble that comes with carrying calves through the scours.

Removal of Warts.

Warts on calves and other young stock are nothing more or less than skin tumors, often due to overstimulation of the parts, says a veterinarian. You can twist them off with your thumb and fingers, after which you may apply tincture iodine to the parts for two or three days in succession. Then keep the parts pliable by rubbing with sweet hog's lard occasionally.

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