

FARM AND POULTRY

HINTS, HELPS AND SUGGESTIONS

The record price for tame hay on the Kansas City market was registered the other day, when \$23.50 per ton was paid for a carload of hay shipped from Rupert, Ida.

Roughly speaking, it takes a depth of from twelve to fifteen inches of snow to make one inch of water. Again, one inch of rainfall will moisten the earth to the depth of about twelve inches.

Switzerland has 2,100 dairies, which employ on the average four people each. Of the total number of dairies 1,400 are engaged in the production of Emmenthal cheese, a brand that constitutes a large share of the cheese exports of the little country.

Probably the highest price ever bid for a calf was \$6,000, which a Wisconsin breeder bid at auction the other day for a month old calf of the famous Dolly Dimples, a prize winning Jersey that is owned on the Ames stock farm near Boston and rated as one of the most valuable cows in the world.

The Japanese sugar cane, which has lately been introduced into some sections of the south, gives promise of being a valuable forage crop. While it will produce more sirup than any other cane, its chief value is for forage, as the stalks are small. However, the variety is hardy, grows to twelve or thirteen feet in height and produces many stalks to the hill. It yields from fifteen to twenty-five tons of green forage per acre.

The Black Giant is the name of a breed of poultry that is making a good record in several eastern states, few if any having as yet been brought west of Pennsylvania. The cock birds weigh nine or ten pounds and the hens from seven to eight. Unlike some other black feathered breeds, they are yellow skinned and have black legs free from feathers. The breed is hardy and easily kept. The Black Giants are favorites in several eastern markets for caponizing and usually top the market in this class.

One breeder of Jersey cattle whom the writer is personally acquainted with is following a plan in the improving of his herd of some forty or fifty fine cows that has much to commend it. Recently there was shipped to him by the owner, on terms that were mutually satisfactory, a prize winning \$1,000 Jersey bull, with which some thirty of his cows are to be mated. This arrangement will cost the owner of the herd mentioned a snug sum, but there is little question that it will pay him a handsome return on the investment.

During the closing days of 1911 grapes were taken from cold storage in some eastern markets that had been shipped from California six weeks before and held there during the interval. They were found in prime condition—practically as good as when put in storage—but the other important feature connected with the experiment was that when put on the market finally these grapes brought more than twice as much as they would had they been sold at the time of shipment from the west. The experiment is likely to have quite an effect upon the grape growing business.

Dynamite is queer stuff, and there are a whole lot of things about it that are difficult to understand. Unlike a good many other substances, there does not seem to be much uniformity in the laws which govern its ignition and explosion. Often the slightest jar or the application of heat to it is sufficient to set it off. In a case related to the writer the other day a chunk of the stuff fell off a wagon on which it was being hauled and a few minutes later was run over by a disk pulverizer without exploding. Again, a chunk of it put in a fire will burn quietly without exploding. We would not advise making this experiment, however.

The writer had the pleasure last winter of spending a day aboard a dairy special which made some eight or ten stops on a given line of road. He was fully persuaded at the close of the day that no farmer living within a radius of twenty miles of the town where the stops were made and who was at all interested in the subject of dairying could afford to miss the practical and instructive lectures and demonstrations which were given. If such a dairy special should during the coming weeks make a stop within reaching distance by team or trolley of any readers of this department it would be decidedly to their advantage to attend and get all the information possible out of the men in charge of the train.

He Won't Limp Now.

No more limping for Tom Moore of Cochran, Ga. "I had a bad sore on my instep that nothing seemed to help till I used Bucklen's Arnica Salve," he writes, "but this wonderful healer soon cured me." Heals old, running sores, ulcers, boils, burns, cuts, bruises, eczema or piles. Try it. Only 25 cents at all dealers.

COW TESTING ASSOCIATIONS.

Probably there is no single line of endeavor being put forth, having in view the improvement of dairy conditions, that surpasses in practical value the work being done by cow testing associations all over the country. For the benefit of those not acquainted with the work of these co-operative associations it may be said that they are formed voluntarily by farmers interested in dairying and living within a given contiguous territory. The number of cows included in these testing experiments runs from 300 to 500, and the milk from each cow is weighed and tested once each week or month, this depending upon whether one or more dairy experts are in charge of the work. But even with the less frequent tests a very good idea is obtained of the actual performance of each cow. Besides eliminating the star boarders—the loafers that don't pay for their salt, let alone their feed—the experts in charge of the testing work give the farmers belonging to the associations valuable aid and suggestions along the line of the most economical as well as best balanced rations possible with the feeds available in a given locality. The work of these cow testing associations has been attended with most gratifying results, dairy work has been simplified and systematized, and the net returns per cow have been substantially increased. There is not a district anywhere where dairying is practicable on a commercial scale that the organization of such a cow testing association would not be an all round benefit. Of course a farmer can do this testing work on his own hook, but the co-operative work is the more satisfactory.

HOW TO PREVENT SUN SCALD.

This tree disease or ailment, which cripples many a thrifty fruit tree, is the result of rapid and extreme changes in temperature. While it may occur in either summer or winter, the greater damage is usually done in the latter season and in late more than early winter. The damage is usually confined to the trunk and is invariably found on the south or southwest side—that portion of the tree which received the most direct rays of the early afternoon sun. The death of the bark from sun scald is due to the starting of the sap in that portion of the trunk by the rays of the sun and a killing of the protoplasm in the sap by a succeeding freeze. Damage from sun scald is easily prevented by protecting the trunks of the trees from the rays of the sun, and there are several ways of doing this. A thin strip of wood wide enough to give the needed protection is excellent. In the section in which the writer's ranch is situated a shake, or split pine shingle, is handy. The trunk may also be shielded with a strip of gunnysacking or wrapped with corn stalks. Whitewashing produces the same result, as it enables the bark to reflect instead of absorb the sun's rays. Small trees that have been provided with the wood veneers have all the protection they need. In sections where damage from sun scald is likely to be serious the trees should be given protection in some one of the above ways at once.

IGNORANCE OR CARELESSNESS?

It is hard to account for a good many accidents that happen to individuals here and there over the country almost every day except on the basis of either gross ignorance of the nature and properties of things folks handle or carelessness that is well nigh criminal. A case in point is that of a northern Mississippi valley farmer who, following a spell of below zero weather, sought to expedite the thawing out of frozen water pipes by saturating rags with gasoline poured from a five gallon can. A smoldering fire was in the rags, with the result that an explosion and blaze followed, in which the man was so badly burned that he died after ten or twelve hours of terrible suffering. Another man put gasoline on kindling and held a three gallon can of the fluid in his hand while he scratched a match and set fire to it. He was terribly burned and his new house nearly burned up. These tragedies resulted from ignorance of the properties of gasoline, which is as treacherous as any element known. In the same week another fellow had three fingers of his right hand torn off as the result of an explosion of a dynamite cap which he was trying to thaw out with a red-hot poker. It thawed, with the result above noted.

Patronize Herald Advertisers.

A Scene Not on the Bill.
An amusing incident in the Royal Opera House at Warsaw, Russian Poland, is described by the Paris Temps. By permission of the commanding officer a number of Russian soldiers were engaged as "supers" to take the part of Spanish soldiers. No sooner had they come on the stage than they saw a general sitting in the stalls. The corporal with them immediately shouted, "Attention!" The soldiers stood at attention. The general, realizing that the men were not likely to move until he gave them the order, cried from the stalls, "All right, my children, all right!" The corporal advanced to the center of the stage and, gravely saluting, said, "We thank you, excellency, for permission to continue."

Insects in Flight.

Motion pictures of insects in flight prove that the movement of the wings of all insects presents the same general character. When flight is begun the amplitude of the first wing beats is much smaller than of the subsequent ones, but the period remains almost unchanged. The insect regulates the velocity of its flight, not by the rapidity of the motion of its wings, but by changing their inclination. Although in normal conditions the period of the wing beat remains constant, it may be increased or diminished by various influences, such as fatigue and cold.

Conscientious.

Wearry Walker—No, ma'am, I ain't dirty from choice. I'm bound by honor. I wrote a testimonial for a soap-maker once and promised "to use no other." Mrs. Housekeeper—Well, why do you not use that? Wearry Walker—Because, ma'am, that firm failed about five years ago.

Explained.

"Helgho!" sighed Mrs. Stontly. "You used to sit once upon a time with your arm around my waist, John, but you never do it any more."

"I'm sorry, dear," replied Stontly, "but there are some things that are beyond my reach."—Harper's.

Restful.

Laura—Alice Flitter is such a restful friend. Charles—Restful? She talks all the time. Laura—That's it. I never have to think about what to say when I'm with her.

Happiness.

Happiness rarely is absent. It is that we know not of its presence. The greatest felicity awaits us nothing if we know not that we are happy.

Be brief, for it is with words as with sunbeams—the more they are condensed the deeper they burn.—Southey.

Gas in the stomach or bowels is a disagreeable symptom of a torpid liver. To get rid of it quickly take HERBINE. It is a marvelous liver stimulant and bowel purifier. Price 50c. Sold by Lents Pharmacy.

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