Official Zeal.

The policeman at the crossing grabbed the arm of the pedestrian who was hurrying across the street and brought him to a standstill.

"What are you stopping me for?' demanded the pedestrian. "I'm not getting in anybody's way, am I?"

"Divil a bit, sor," answered the officer. "I wanted to ask ye a question, sor; that's all. Fwhat's the score?'

No Cause for Complaint.

The Pacific Fur Company had picked out an eligible location on the left bank of the Columbia river and founded the city of Astoria.

"Seems to me," said a prospective settler, "you are asking an awful price for your building lots.'

"Huh!" ejaculated the company's business agent. "You may be thankful we didn't call this town Waldorf-Astoria and charge you $20 a day for living here.' '

In Manila most of the houses and offices have tiny window panes made of translucent oyster shell instead of glass.

Indisputable.

The teacher had found a lead pencil on the floor of the school room.

"Children," she asked, holding it up, "does this belong to any of you?"

For several seconds there was no answer. Then a little girl timidly raised her hand.

"Is it yours, Bessie?" said the teacher.

"Yes'm."

"You are sure of it, are you? How do you recognize it?"

"I don't like to tell."

"But you will have to tell, or I can't let you have it."

"I—I reco'nize it, teacher, by the way it's sharpened. If it wasn't sure enough mine I'd be mighty clear of ownin' up to such a job as that."

Bessie got her pencil.—Chicago Tribune.

AGRICULTURAL

Seed Corn Selection.

That pretty ears are not always the best seed corn has been shown by the experiments at the Ohio Station. They selected twenty-four extra fine ears, all of the same variety. The seed of these were planted, each ear in a row by itself, and thinned to three stalks in a hill, so that each ear had the same chance as its neighbor. One ear out of the twenty-four yielded at the rate of 114 bushels per acre, another 112 and a third 104 bushels, while other ears made fifty-five, sixty-five and seventy-seven bushels per acre. The row that made the smallest yield had fifty-eight barren stalks. The row next to the highest had fifteen barren stalks, and the row that made sixty-five bushels had fifty-two barren stalks. The ears were all of equal appearance and of equal germinating quality. The results show very plainly that what we have been for years insisting upon, that the breeding of corn in the field, the removal of disturbing influences about it, and the working toward an ideal plant as a whole, a plant of productive character rather than big ears, are all of far more importance than the selection of fine ears by the score card without any knowledge of the breeding of the corn. Selection of the largest ears tends toward single-ear production, for it is a law of nature that when we increase the size of the individual fruit of any plant we will decrease the number of fruits, and when we increase the number we decrease the size of the individual fruits. But it has also been shown that a stalk with two or more medium-sized ears of corn will make more corn than a stalk with one big ear. In a test made for the yield of grain, one sample was from a single-eared plant, one from a two-eared one, one from a three-eared one and one from a four-eared one, and the quantity of corn shelled increased exactly with the number of ears on the plant. The breeding in the field to breed out barren stalks is the essential matter in developing the productive character of the corn, and the best ears are merely relative and not by any means the largest.

Simple Slaughtering Outfit.

Figure 1 shows a big galvanized iron washtub set upon a few bricks piled up for the occasion. A small fire can be

FIG. 1—TUB FOR HEATING WATER.

built beneath, which will, of course, melt off the coating of zinc on the bottom of the tub, but this will do no great harm. Such a tub costs about 75 cents, and can be purchased anywhere.

Fig. 2 is the table and hogshead for

FIG. 2.—SLAUGHTERING TABLE AND VAT.

scalding and taking off hair, scraping, etc.

FIG. 3—FRAMEWORK FOR SMOKE OUTFIT.

Fig. 3 is the framework on which to build the smoking box.

Potatoes for Planting.

In digging potatoes, known to be pure seed and of the same variety, frequent variations may often be noticed. Some of these are due only to differences of soil, but others are true "sports,' and will reproduce their kind if planted another year. If these "sports" are usually productive and valuable they should be carefully saved for planting. In this way some of the best varieties of potatoes have been originated, one or two kinds of late rose being prominent instances.

Strawberries.

The strawberry propagates itself in two ways—by runners and by seed. If the runners are kept from rooting, the vine will make an effort to reproduce itself from seed (production of berries) in the spring, and some horticulturists have given as their opinion that if the vines are not allowed to throw out runners in the summer there will be no loss of vitality by the old plants, and the matter intended to be converted into runners will be stored in the plants and converted into fruit when the proper time arrives. The first thing to do after harvesting the crop is to thoroughly clean between the rows and pull out the weeds between the plants in the rows, so as to give the beds the benefit of the hoe as much as possible. Moisture is always beneficial to strawberry plants, and the ground should be worked deep at first and then kept loose on the surface until late in the fall, when the vines may be mulched. Burning the beds should be done when the ground is frozen. This, it is claimed, will enable the plants to begin anew in the spring, the old plants being thereby invigorated, the ashes providing potash, and the seeds of weeds destroyed. Leaves, straw or other materials may be placed over the plants before winter sets in, to remain as a mulch until early in the spring. Fertilizer is applied both just after harvest and early in the spring. Potted plants are runners that are grown in pots, close to the parent plants, each runner being separated from its parent when it is well rooted in the pot. It is transplanted from the pot to the open ground.

Coal Ashes.

In one ton of ashes from bituminous coal are 8 pounds of potash, 9 pounds of phosphoric acid, 38 pounds of lime and a large proportion of waste matter. Coal ashes are said to be about equal to clay, and are nearly of the same composition. They possess little or no value as a fertilizer, but serve to assist light, sandy soils to retain moisture, answering the same purpose as clay. The percentage of potash and phosphoric acid contained is too small in quantity to pay for hauling and spreading coal ashes on the ground as a fertilizer. If any benefit is derived it is due to the mechanical effect of the ashes on the soil and as an absorbent material.

Storing Potatoes.

There is more loss storing potatoes than in storing any other crop. Barring all waste from rot, there is a heavy shrinkage, both in quantity and weight. A bin holding 100 bushels will show a shrinkage of nearly one-tenth, besides a greater loss in weight. A bushel basket full that will weigh fully sixty pounds in October, when taken from the soil, will not weigh so much after being stored in the cellar during the winter. The shrinkage in weight is much less when kept in pits closely covered with earth, for there is then less chance for evaporation.

Horse Breeding.

To a careful observer it is clear that horses are now better classified than formerly. Thus the horse that is best adapted to road purposes is placed at such work, and the horse that is suited best to the plow and heavy hauling has its own proper work assigned. Hence the advantage of breeding for a purpose. The man who makes the best success of rearing horses is the one who clearly understands the situation, and breeds what is most desirable for his customers.

Grazing on Rye.

The practice of turning cows on young rye in the fall is a good one, but when the ground is very wet damage may result. Grazing the rye causes it to stool, and the young rye provides late green food; but, while the rye field may be used for cows in the fall, they should not be turned on too early in the spring. It does not do so much harm for cows to change from grass to rye, as it does from dry food in the spring to young rye.

Keep Sheep.

Every farmer should have a few sheep, in order to save much of the material grown that may be wasted. Sheep will eat a great many plants which cattle reject, and they graze closer to the ground. Young and tender weeds are delicious to sheep, and they, therefore, assist in ridding the fields of such pests. A small flock of mutton sheep should be kept, if for no other purpose than to supply the family with choice meat.

Keeping Animals in Condition.

If the animals are allowed to run down in flesh it will be a loss to the farmer, as he is then compelled to restore them to their original condition before he makes a gain. At the same time, there is a waste of many days, as the animals are below their normal condition, which is lost time that can never be regained.

Feeding Cabbage to Poultry.

The small and inferior cabbages are valuable as food for poultry, and will be highly relished in winter when green food is scarce. They are easily handled, as the heads require no cutting, the fowls picking them to pieces and consuming them down to the stalks.

GOLD IN RHODESIA.

Interesting Data Given by the United States Consul.

Consul John H. Snodgrass of Pretoria furnishes the following report on the mining and industrial development of the British-African colony of Rhodesia:

"The expansion of the gold industry in Rhodesia to the annual production of $10,000,000 of the metal has been accomplished by the small investor and individual effort rather than by means of capital. Small reefs have been discovered in this territory, and many are confidently predicting that Rhodesia in a few years may perhaps excel the Transvaal in the production of the precious metals. Small operators with little capital by their own efforts have of late been extracting nearly one-third of the total amount of gold found, and their earnings have been spent mostly in the colony, as a consequence of which there has been a revival of trade. While such crops as tobacco, cotton and wool have been trying to find their way into the distant markets, local demands for grain, fruits and fresh meats are being met more and more by the Rhodesian agriculturists themselves.

"Rhodesia's output of other minerals than gold has increased and several new industries have come into life during the year. Pioneer settlers along the Cape to Cairo railroad have proved that what could be done in South Africa could also be done farther north, and some remarkable crops have been grown. The Kafue river, the bridging of which was an engineering feat second only to that accomplished at the Victoria falls, afterward proved to be a useful waterway, for it extends 100 miles, and several steam and sailing craft have already been put on it. The close of 1906 saw that launching of a great scheme for the supply of electricity for the Rand, and Rhodesia is interested in this from the fact that it is the intention to derive a vast amount of that power from the Victoria falls.

"In the return of a generally Rhodesian prosperity it is only natural that the railways should play an important part, though they have suffered badly as other lines of industry on account of the long-drawn-out depression that overcast all South Africa. The report of the Rhodesian railways for the year 1906 shows that the gross earnings for the first eleven months totaled $2,393,500, which is equal to $2,661,000 per annum, as against $2,316,500 in 1906; the net revenue was $988,500, as compared with $534,000 in 1905. This represents an annual gain of 12¾ per cent in net income. An approximate estimate of the traffic during the year puts the gross earnings at $2,711,000 and the net revenue at $1,014,500."

JOKE ON THE CITY FELLOW.

He Bet He Could Milk a Cow, but Lost, as It Was "Dry."

"Did you ever notice," asked the necktie clerk of the Kansas City Star writer, "how the average city fellow lords it over the country boy? Thinks he's wiser and better, you know. It's natural—I thought that way until I mixed with a few simon-pure country boys, and then I tumbled.

"You see, my old man bought a farm down in Kansas and I went down there to run affairs. I was pie for the rubes. Course I couldn't milk a cow, and that tickled them to death. But I learned to milk, on the quiet, you know, and figured on turning the laugh. I got so I could play a regular tune in the pail and thought I was on to everything. I was a fool, too.

"Well, one Sunday the boys held an outdoor entertainment in a pasture. Everything was allowed but biting and scratching. Of course, I got the brunt of the rustic wit, and it wasn't half bad, either. But when it was passed around that I couldn't milk a cow I just smiled.

"'Any one want to bet?' I asked, thinking of some easy money.

"They figured for a few minutes, and then scratched up $10, and I covered it.

"'Trot 'er out,' I says, feeling kind of guilty. They didn't know about my private lessons.

"Well," continued the necktie clerk, arranging his stock on the table, "they trotted her out—the cow, you know—and I settled beside her on a one-legged stool and went after the juice. But nothing came, and everybody guffawed. I couldn't coax any milk out of that critter for love or money. The cow stood my abuse for ten minutes and never said a word. She was a model of patience.

"'I quit. It's all yours, gentlemen,' I says.

"On the way home I confided my troubles to an old farmer who had witnessed the struggle. 'No more farming for me,' said I.

"'Trouble is with you city chaps you never learn,' replied the old man. 'Those boys sicked you on a dead issue.'

"'Explain, neighbor,' I said.

"'Why, the devil himself couldn't milk that cow. She's been dry for two months.'"

Setting Him Right.

"Could you get more hickory nuts or more lemons into a barrel?"

"Hickory nuts, of course."

"Wrong. You could squeeze more lemons into it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

You can always reach the hearts of men and women by stuffing them—the former with food, the latter with flattery.

The island of Capri possesses a unique cave of the blues, wherein the air is like a twilight of blue fire, and waves, and grotto walls, and boats, and people—everything and every one—look blue.

Rather Lucky.

"How are you feeling? I heard you were very much run down this spring."

"Not so very much. Only two autos struck me; I dodged all the rest."—Baltimore American.

Friendly with the Bobby.

Wife—Tommy doesn't seem to be afraid of policemen.

Husband—Why should he? His nurse was a very pretty girl.

Don't be a coward. The sun hates to shine on those who are afraid of their own shadows.

His Motto.

"Dubley says his motto is, 'Live and learn.' "

"Well, if he isn't more successful at the former than the latter we'll be going to his funeral soon."

Not a Total Loss.

"Oh, John!" exclaimed Mrs. Young, "my canary bird's dead."

"Really?" replied her husband. "Well, you don't appear to be grieving very much."

"No; you see, I can have it stuffed for my hat and so the rest of the material won't cost you so much."—Philadelphia Press.