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evening at 7:30 o'clock.
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cordially invited. Mem-
bers are expected to be
present. G. E. James, N. G., R. M.
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WORK OXEN IN THE EAST

The New Hampshire experiment station has been keeping an account of the cost of feeding a horse that weighed 1,200 pounds for a year, he being kept at moderately hard work, and says that it costs \$74.32. In round numbers, then, it costs \$150 a year to feed a pair of such horses, and the cost of shoeing would be about \$15 more, while the cost to harness and keeping it cleaned and oiled would make another \$10. Then the ordinary farmer will not make such a pair of horses last more than ten years, and many would use them up in half that time. Say that they cost \$300, which is not a fancy price, and yet does not mean a cheap



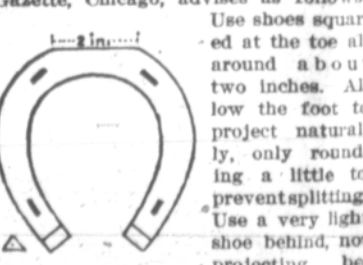
MAINE BREED OXEN

pair that cannot do a fair day's work. Can they do any more work on a farm than a yoke of good four-year-old oxen? Can they do any work that the oxen cannot, unless it be on moving machine or reaper? We know that the oxen can work best in swamps or among stumps. It costs less for the yoke and chains than for harness. They are more easily taken care of. When they work they can feed in the pasture, and they require little grain feed, unless working very hard or being fattened, and if well cared for after three or four years at work they can be sold for beef for much more than they cost at three years old, while if the farmer raises them himself they seem to have cost him nothing.

More than one farmer who fails to make much more than a fair living at his business will find upon investigation that it costs him from \$300 to \$400 a year and some of them much more than that for a horse team to do with his oxen. His father raised his oxen, trained them and worked them. Some times he sold one or two yokes of steers, sometimes a yoke of fat oxen. When he did so it seemed almost like finding so much money, and often he put it in the bank or let it out on mortgage. American Cultivator.

Round Barn Disapproved.
I have no experience with round barns, but those I have seen have in my judgment no advantage over the usual rectangular form and have many disadvantages. No expression so completely fits the case as the effort to fill a round barn had its inception in the thought that more space could be inclosed with the same outline in the circle than any other form. Of course that is true and would perhaps hold good if every inside form was built accordingly. But we construct every partition inside with a right angle, and so they come waste. To illustrate, if cow stalls are made to fit the circle and are wide enough toward the center they are too wide on the outer or larger circumference, and vice versa, or if one wishes to drive around the outside, the passage will have to be from one to two feet wider, depending upon the size of the barn, in order to make the turn. While a given area may be more cheaply stiled up in the circle than in the rectangle, the circular form, the roof will cost more to build in brief, I would not build a round barn, concludes a Rural New Yorker correspondent.

Special Shoeing.
To shoe a driving light that forges and interferes behind, the Breeder's Gazette, Chicago, advises as follows: Use shoes squared at the toe all around about two inches low the foot to project naturally, only rounding a little to prevent splitting. Use a very light shoe behind, not projecting behind the hoof at either branch, and a heavy shoe in front. If the mare is of medium size, make the hind shoe five ounces, front one twelve ounces, no calks, and do not drive in the mud. Later if mud driving is necessary use four low small calks to each shoe, as shown.



TO PREVENT FORGING.

Beauty and Utility.
The highest art in breeding animals is to combine beauty and utility. In most animals "beauty is vain" without utility; in some, utility alone is not sufficient; in all, the combination is the most valuable, affirms National Stockman. The 2:10 trotter with beauty is very valuable for a gentleman's driver after his turf usefulness is past; without it he is not worth half so much. The dairy cow which combines beauty and utility is sought after by breeders who realize the value of appearances as well as of performance. One of this kind brought \$2,500 at a sale recently and with quality almost none can not have commanded a tenth of that sum. And the same principle holds good in other things. Beauty has a money value when combined with utility whether in an animal, a farm or a marketable product.

EVAPORATING APPLES.

In the Extensive Fruit Districts of Western New York.

In fruit districts such as the western New York, where apple growing is done on a large scale, there are large evaporators in every town where farmers may sell their windfalls. In some seasons when the crops are large and prices low entire crops are shaken from the trees and sold in this manner, often the grower realizing as much for the fruit as to pick and ship it in barrels.

There are also small evaporators made for farm use. These are made of wood, with a system of racks, fitted one above another, upon which to place the sliced apples. A stove below furnishes the heat, and ventilators are made in the top of the building by which the heat is regulated. These dry houses are made of different sizes, and from eight to forty bushels of apples may be dried in twenty-four hours. The difficulty with these farm evaporators is to obtain the necessary help with which to do the work. The work cannot be so economically done as with the large evaporators, and they are going out of use to a large extent, beyond providing for family or local needs.

George T. Powell, a New York fruit grower of note, describes in American Agriculturist a drying house he put up four years ago. It is 20 by 30 feet, two stories, with an L 16 by 20 feet. This is not down in the sketch, but it extends out from where the platform is shown. This addition is used for paring, trimming, slicing and putting up. There are two rooms below. The first is 20 by 20 feet, in which furnaces are placed with a system of pipes running around the rooms near the top, which carry and distribute the heat to the floors above, upon which the apples are placed. The large evaporators are built through the roof, carry a strong draft, thus drawing the heat up rapidly from the furnace rooms below.

The entire cost of this building was \$500. He has turned out in a season



ELEVATION OF DRYING HOUSE

sixteen tons of white stock and five tons of chips and waste. With an evaporator room and drying floor, several more tons of chips and waste could be dried. The chips are apples too small to be pared and are run through without paring. The waste consists of cores, and parings. It requires four tons of coal a week to run the two furnaces. The chips and waste will usually pay for the coal. The summer and autumn apples are too soft to be of any value for evaporating. About Sept. 15 he begins to paring and drying late with the master of a Dutch smack in a week's time we shall all be equipped like Dutch skippers. You see, I speak very interestingly, for, as I never wear a hat myself, it is indifferent to me what sort of a hat I don't wear."

Dangerous.
A contributor to the "Transactions of the Devonshire Association" says that when he came to a certain place as vicar he asked whether there were any sick to be visited.

"Oh, no, sir!" was the answer. "Nobody is ever ill in Berrybarrow. There is an old man, to be sure, over ninety, who has taken lately to his bed, but there isn't much the matter with him that I know of."

"I thought to myself," added the vicar, "of the story of the Scotchman who said to his doctor, 'I've put a very long face, doctor. D'ye think I'm dangerously ill?'"

"No, na," was the reply. "I don't think you're dangerously ill, but I think you're dangerously old!"

The Missing Key.
One telegraph operator was telling another of a quarrel he had had with another at the other end of a wire, when he came to a certain place, about two minutes."

"What did he say?"

"Did not give him a chance to say anything. I just opened the key and he could not come back at me. 'Goodness,' put in a bystander, 'wouldn't it be fine if we could work a scheme like that in matrimony? Just open the key and that would be the end of it.'"—New York Tribune.

Trees.
Authorities on forestry say that seventy-five years are required for the oak to reach maturity; for the ash, larch and elm, about the same length of time; for the spruce and fir, about eighty years. After this time their growth remains stationary for some years, and then decay begins. There are, however, some exceptions to this, for oaks are still living, which are known to be 1,000 years old.

Possibilities.
"But," protested the first dear girl, "I haven't got the face to ask a favor of him."
"Well," rejoined dear girl No. 2, "you might visit a complexion specialist and have your face remodeled."—Chicago News.

To smile at the jest which plants a thorn in another's breast is to become a principal in the mischief.—Sheridan.

THE TABLES OF STONE.

A Curious Calculation From the Talmud and the Bible.

Do you ever figure on the probable size and immense strength of Moses, basing your calculations on the dimensions of the tables of stone, as given by the Talmudic writers? In the Talmud (folio 28, column 8) it is said that the tables of stone upon which the commandments were written were six ells long, six ells broad and three ells thick. In the Bible, Exodus xxxii, 15, we are told that "Moses went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand."

"Hand," mind you, not hands, though it must be admitted that it would have taken a strong pair of hands to perform the task of carrying them, even on the level. Now, we will put the Talmudic and the Biblical accounts together and apply the mathematical rule. The Hebrew ell or cubit was, at its least estimate, a measure of eighteen inches, which would have made each of the tables a stone block nine feet long, nine feet wide and four and one-half feet thick. If common stone weighed as much as the square foot then as it does now the tables would tip the beam at about twenty-eight tons! Was Moses one of the giants of those days or has some one made a mistake in calculations or in the statement of supposed facts?—Exchange.

SARDINES.

The Way They Are Cooked and Prepared For Market.

Sardines are caught in nets, and after being well washed the heads are cut off and the fish are sprinkled lightly with salt. After lying for a few hours they are placed on grids in rows almost perpendicular. The frames are then placed in pans containing boiling olive oil. The oil is changed as soon as it becomes too black and dirty for continuing the cooking process.

As soon as the fish are considered sufficiently cooked, they are withdrawn from the pans of oil and the grids are placed on the tables covered with zinc, the surface of the table inclining toward a groove in the center. The oil is thus carried to a vessel prepared to receive it. Round the table stand the women whose business it is to pack the fish closely and uniformly in boxes.

The boxes being full, the fish are covered with fresh oil and the lids are then soldered down. Thus hermetically sealed they are placed in iron baskets and immersed in boiling water. The smaller boxes are thus boiled for half an hour and the larger ones somewhat longer, in proportion to size of box. The fish are then ready for the market.—Pearson's Weekly.

The Wearing of Hats.

More or less of a modern habit is the constant wearing of hats. Even as late as 1739 Horace Walpole mentions as a matter of course that he never wears a hat. "Remember," he says, writing to a friend notoriously careless about his dress, who was expected home from Holland, "everybody that comes from abroad is supposed to come from France, and whatever they wear at their first reappearance immediately grows the fashion. Now if, as is very likely, you should through inadvertence change hats with the master of a Dutch smack in a week's time we shall all be equipped like Dutch skippers. You see, I speak very interestingly, for, as I never wear a hat myself, it is indifferent to me what sort of a hat I don't wear."

Benefits of Early Training.

"Nice spoken chap, that. Seems to me as though 'e'd ad a college education." "Well, an' so 'e 'as. Why, 'e was sent to a reformatory before 'e was eleven years old."—Tailor.

My Hair Ran Away

Don't have a falling out with your hair. It might leave you! Then what? That would mean thin, scraggly, uneven, rough hair. Keep your hair at home! Fasten it tightly to your scalp! You can easily do it with Ayer's Hair Vigor. It is something more than a simple hair dressing. It is a hair medicine, a hair tonic, a hair food.

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Bananas.
Two tons of bananas can be grown on the space of ground which will produce forty pounds weight of wheat.

Coal Deposits.
Coal deposits of North America are estimated to contain nearly as much as those of Europe, or 681,000,000,000 tons, but even this gigantic figure is dwarfed by Asia's wealth of coal. China is believed to possess inexhaustible supplies.

Cold Baths.
Cold baths in the morning are undoubtedly beneficial, but only to those persons who have sufficient vitality and nervous force to insure good reaction. Many persons who are greatly refreshed by their morning cold bath feel tired or languid two or three hours afterward. When this occurs they should leave the cold bath severely alone.

Fish Scales.
Fish scales can easily be removed by pouring hot water on the fish slowly until the scales curl, then scraping quickly. Wash in several waters, having the last cold and well salted so no slime will be left.

Car of Juggernaut.
The hideous tales of the car of Juggernaut and the hundreds of victims crushed beneath its wheels in the annual processions are true. The car-festivals in India attract each year 100,000 pilgrims, but no one was ever killed beneath the car except by accident.

Horses.
In the mythology of Europe horses have always been considered bearers of luck, and there was a superstition which once was current that the presence of a horse's hoof under the bed would cure certain complaints.

Water in Coal Mines.
The water in coal mines is usually brackish, and when it comes in contact with electric lines it forms salts of copper. These salts rapidly disintegrate the copper wire. They also interfere with the working of the insulators; hence it is necessary wherever electric wires are used in coal mines to keep them away from contact with water.

To Keep Nuts Fresh.
To keep nuts fresh throughout the year they should be packed in sacks between layers of the sand.

Gas Industry in Britain.
The gas industry in Britain, according to the Society of British Gas Industries, consists of 1,250 gas companies and local authorities and supplies 4,400,000 consumers. The London companies—i. e., city and suburban within the ten miles radius—included in the foregoing have 345,000 consumers.

The Voice of Experience.

Souful Person—Ah, yes. The instruction of the young must indeed be a delightful occupation. Is it not, professor?

The Professor—Yes, madam; it is not—Woman's Home Companion.

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