

HOW A WAR WAS PREVENTED.

(Original.)
The essential features of this story constitute a notable newspaper scoop.

One evening at a ball at the German embassy at Paris M. de B., a brilliant young journalist then representing the London Times at the French capital, was standing looking on at the dancers when a girl possessing a Teutonic cast of countenance passed leaning on the arm of the German ambassador. Her eyes met those of De B., and, though she lowered them modestly, still there was that in her expression which revealed to the young journalist that he had made an impression. He sought the ambassador and begged an introduction. It was granted, and De B. was presented to Marie von Ullenstein of Berlin, a niece of Prince Bismarck.

De B. met the fraulein often in society, and at every meeting the mutual pleasure appeared to be greater than at the previous one. Within a few weeks he was encouraged to make her a proposition of marriage. She acknowledged that she was greatly pleased with him, but that no definite answer could be given without consultation with her family, and especially her uncle, the chancellor.

"You think," she added, "that I am seizing upon a pretext to put you off. To convince you to the contrary, I will confide to you what this engrossing subject is. Our government, fearful that France, displaying such remarkable recuperative powers, will soon grow strong enough to take revenge for the blow received in the late war, is about to pick a quarrel with the French, march on Paris and level it."

The imparting of such a remarkable piece of news to him, a journalist, by a niece of the real ruler of Germany threw De B. into a fearful state of doubt. What could it mean? He soon left the fraulein, going to another apartment to think. Two Germans near him were talking together, and he heard one of them mention the name of Marie von Ullenstein, whereupon the other added, "It is said that the chancellor intrusts her with many delicate bits of diplomacy."

The words did not reassure the listener. He left the embassy, went to his apartments and lay awake all night thinking of his strange adventure. What should he do? Whether the news the fraulein had given him was true or false, it was his duty as a Frenchman to impart it to the president of France. But this compelled the betrayal of a confidence reposed in him by the girl he loved. After a terrible mental struggle he sent the information to his paper. His publication attracted considerable attention for the time being, then was dropped by the public as a piece of manufactured news.

De B. kept away from Marie von Ullenstein. The day after the publication of the news she had given him he heard that she had left Paris. One of two things was probable. Either she had been recalled by her uncle to be punished for revealing state secrets or she had manufactured the news to test him. As time passed and he heard nothing of German preparation to invade France he made up his mind that the latter hypothesis was correct. In either case his mental sufferings were almost unendurable, loving desperately, as he did, the girl whose confidence he had violated.

Then came an offer from a Paris paper for him to act as its Berlin correspondent. A burning desire to see Marie von Ullenstein once more, even though she spurned him, decided him, and he went to Berlin. It was not long before he met her in company. To his surprise she nodded to him and smiled. Her action convinced him that she had manufactured the news she had given him and, finding him unworthy, had become indifferent to him. Eager to learn the truth, he took the first opportunity to join her.

"Well," he said, "you saw that I regarded my duty instead of my love."

"Don't let us talk of that," she replied. "Your act did no harm."

"No," he said gloomily. "There is no harm in manufactured news."

"The news was not manufactured. You did your duty. Why have you not written me?"

"I? Write you after having revealed your secret?"

"I expected you to reveal it. Indeed, I wished you to do so."

"Why?"

"If I had intended the secret to be kept, I would not have imparted it to you. Your duty to your country compelled you to reveal it."

"You used me as a tool, then."

"Yes."

"And your consent to consider me a savior was a part of your scheme?"

"It had nothing to do with my scheme."

A flood of joyous relief welled up in De B. "You have given me one confidence," he said. "If you are not displeased with me, give me another. Explain."

"I have at times," she replied, "been entrusted by my uncle with delicate diplomatic maneuvers. He had been long worried by the war party who were determined to destroy France, thus antagonizing the civilized world. Finally they carried the day, and war was decided on. My uncle commissioned me to go to France and let out the secret, especially for England, expecting that power would interfere. I chose you as my medium. As soon as the news was published in England word was communicated by the British minister here that if we attacked France we must also attack England. That settled the matter."

Later the betrothal of M. de B. and Marie von Ullenstein was announced.

WINSLOW JENKINS.

WORLD'S GREAT SHOW.

This Year's Magnificent International Broke All Records.

"The international this year, the eighth, proved the world's greatest live stock show, both in number and quality of entries, in interest shown in the exhibits and in attendance. Separately there may have been greater and more complete horse shows and possibly as grand a showing of cattle in a strictly cattle show, but as an all around exhibit of pure bred farm animals there was never before anything approaching it."

To the foregoing opinion of Orange Judd Farmer there are not likely to be many exceptions taken. Some details of the great event here follow:

When the gates opened it is conservatively estimated that there was \$7,000,000 worth of pure bred animals. This value was made up from nearly 1,300 cattle, representing every standard breed; nearly 700 horses, nearly 1,200 sheep, the largest and most high class showing ever brought together in this country and perhaps never equaled anywhere, covering all recognized breeds and made up of individual animals that have been prize winners repeatedly in other contests. Of swine, limited as they were this year to fat animals only, there were nearly 400 entries.

In point of interest and of attendance old records were eclipsed. Over 70,000 people a day passed through the turnstiles, and it is conservatively estimated that 300,000 people from outside of Chicago visited the city during the week for the purpose of looking over the magnificent showing gathered from all states and from many countries of the world. The educational feature of the international was again prominent, as it should be, the agricultural colleges being represented by larger classes than ever before. Nine representative institutions of this character competed in the class judging contests.

Stellar Honors For a Calf.

Perhaps the most noticeable thing in the cattle circles was the placing of the Shorthorn calf Ronn King, from Canada, in the grand championship place. Of him Judge Durno said: "We don't often see an animal like this. Not even in the old country are they any better. At Smithfield we find them larger, but not any better." This is the second time stellar honors have been won by a calf in the fat ring. Defender, last year's grand champion, who was the first to achieve this honor, was awarded third place by the British Judge, James Durno. A calf, Ohio Crown, also went to the head of the Shorthorn breed.



R. D. Williamson's champion Merino ram, Class A, or wrinkly type.—National Stockman.

THE DAIRYMAN.

States that aid their dairymen as follows: Wisconsin, \$3,000; Minnesota, \$1,500; Illinois, \$1,500; Ohio, \$850; Michigan, \$500; Indiana, \$500.

Dairy Work.

The department of agriculture reports for the last year the following:

Nine men have been sent out to assist southern dairymen in improving their methods. The records of sixteen herds show an average increase of \$3.75 in the monthly production of each cow, due to improved methods.

Pasteurized cream churned sweet without starter has been shown to produce remarkably fine butter that kept for weeks after removal from storage.

A simple and rapid method for determining the amount of moisture in butter was worked out.

Butter and cheese laboratories have been established at Albert Lea in cooperation with the Minnesota station.

Nine hundred and sixteen dairies supplying milk to Washington were inspected and rated, with an average score of only forty-five out of a possible 100.

Monthly reports from 500 to 600 creameries indicate lax methods in many cases, involving a loss to the entire country of probably \$5,000,000 a year.

Ohio Dairy Meeting.

The Ohio dairymen's convention will be held at Columbus, O., on Feb. 12, 13 and 14. It is announced that two beautiful pure bred Jersey heifer calves will be given as premiums. The highest score in market milk will be rewarded with a calf from the Alta Jersey herd of D. H. Olds of Springfield, O. The best dairy butter will carry off for its exhibitor a fine calf from the herd of C. A. Pontius of Canton.

Demand For Dairy Cows.

The demand for dairy cows will not be supplied for some years. The west and southwest are taking them by the carload, while Mexico and Japan are sending their representatives here for our best pure breeds and the grades of the different dairy breeds, says W. F. Barney, president of the Iowa Dairy association.

The Old Folks' Matrimonial Exchange.

(Original.)

An elderly lady with a pair of short gray curls on each temple stepped into the private office of Philander Shanks, merchant. Mr. Shanks rose, bowed, pointed to a seat and asked her what he could do for her.

"I have come to see you, Mr. Shanks, on a very peculiar mission. I have a plan which I must preface by a bit of explanation."

The lady paused and looked as if she was hunting for some place to begin, then went on:

"There are two parts to life for those who live to be old age. The first half is entirely unlike the second. In youth we know nothing of the loneliness of old age. Many a man and woman up to forty is absorbed in that which has nothing to do with providing companionship for old age. Then perhaps suddenly a realization comes to us of the fact that we need the home. We remember the lost opportunities of youth to form a connection which would have resulted in sons and daughters growing up about us and—"

"Madam," interrupted Mr. Shanks, "you are describing me. I have built up a fortune, but have neglected to build up a home. I have reached the time when I would gladly give the fortune for the home. What is there for me when I leave this office? A miserable existence till the next morning, when I resume my duties. I dine, alone, spend a lonely evening at my club, and when I go to my desolate apartments—"

"And I," interrupted the lady—"I live in a room by myself. I manage to get along during the day, since I am interested in several charitable associations—president of one and secretary of another—but when evening comes how can I go out alone and where can I go?"

"Does your plan aim to relieve such conditions, madam?"

"It does. You have made it very easy for me to propose it. I knew you were a bachelor and past—well, past fifty."

"Fifty-five, madam."

Therefore I knew you would sympathize with me. I propose to establish an exchange for those elderly people who would like to marry, but have no one to marry. True, the major part of the deficiency we can never make up—the children. Dear little things, how I would love to have them always about me, with their funny ways, their—"

"And grown, madam. I would give my check for a million for a son to succeed me in this business."

"And if I had had children when I was from twenty to thirty I should now be potting my grandchildren. I love them best from eighteen months to four years, from the time they are learning to walk and to talk till they begin to crave playmates."

"And think what a fine thing it is to watch them while they are being educated—the boys growing strong and manly, the girls good and beautiful."

"But we are wasting time without coming to the point. I will enter my name as the first woman charter member of the exchange. I would like you to enter yours as the first man member."

"Gladly, madam," regretfully. "We cannot, as you say, surround ourselves with families. We are too old. But we may make homes for each other. No man can make a home without a woman."

"You will need some funds, madam, first for stationery for your notices and invitations, then to secure a place for meeting. I trust you will permit me to furnish a little fund for a starter." He took a check book from a drawer.

"What name, madam?"

"Spinney—D. A. Spinney."

"What a coincidence!" remarked Mr. Shanks, pausing in his work, laying down his pen and looking at the lady through his spectacles. "Do you know, madam, had it not been for one of those asinine conditions incident to youth I might have had a home with a lovely girl by the name of Spinney."

"We all have those memories. I one day parted in a pet with a man—"

"An ass probably you mean."

"He took me to a ball. I noticed the name of a girl on his card of dance engagements who I thought was trying to get him away from me. I told him that he must either strike off that name or strike off mine for the five dances I had agreed to give him."

"Strange!" mused Mr. Shanks. "Do you know that that very same thing happened to me? A girl made the same requirement, and I drew my pencil through her own name wherever it appeared on my card. I was a fool. The fact that she wouldn't brook a rival was proof positive that she loved me."

"Nevertheless she had no right to make such a demand unless she was engaged to you."

"But for that tiff I have always believed she would have been my wife." He handed her the check. She looked at the signature, and her eyes seemed riveted to it. Without raising them she said:

"I didn't know your first name was Phil—I mean Philander."

"It is. But why do you notice that?"

"Because," she leaned back in her chair and covered her face with her hands—"because mine is Domida."

The clattery click of a typewriting machine in the next room was all that was heard for some moments, and when Mr. Shanks spoke it served to drown his words.

The proposed exchange was nipped in the bud by the marriage of the first man and woman charter members.

ROSALIND HOUTON.

WITH THE FLOCK.

Breeding Value of Show Ram in Wool and Meat Making.

By W. J. WILMER.

At this season of the year, with "show" animals greatly in view, the question as to their breeding value naturally recurs. A sheep man of much experience says: A ram born and bred in the stable, artificially fed from its birth and forced to a precocious development cannot transmit to its descendants the qualities of robustness necessary to a range system of sheep breeding. The English breeds do not owe their good reputation to measures taken against nature, nor have their typical qualities been produced in this way, and the practice in breeding establishments whose only object is a great development is too artificial. It is true we ought not to neglect the breeding animals destined for exhibition, and we ought to feed them with the best fodder, keep their fleece in the best condition and put into practice every legitimate art to present them in the most perfect way before the public. But it seems only reasonable nevertheless to allow them at least to breathe the pure air of the field and not the heavy atmosphere of a half closed and half dark stable, to oblige them to walk and to graze, and, lastly, to always keep in mind in preparing them that the breeder produces wool and meat in God's pastures.

Carcass Competition.

Thirty-one wethers and fourteen lambs were entered in the contest of sheep carcasses at the late international show in Chicago, and prizes were awarded, as follows:

For wethers one year old and under two years—

Breed.	Live Dressed wt.	Wool yield.	Per cent.
1. Pure Southdown.....	140	81	57.86
2. Pure Southdown.....	112	82	57.75
3. Grade Southdown.....	147	84	57.14

For lambs—

1. Pure Southdown.....	57	49	60.52
2. Hampshire-Rambouillet	117	62	52.99
3. Grade Southdown.....	109	56	50.00

It will be seen that Southdowns, including one grade, won all prizes except the second prize for lambs, which went to the crossbred Hampshire-Rambouillet shown by Robert Taylor of Nebraska. The Wisconsin Agricultural college took first prize for both wethers and lambs and second prize for wethers, while the Iowa college carried off both third prizes.

The wethers made a splendid exhibit of carcasses, but the lambs, excepting the prize winners, looked a very light finished lot.

The champion carcass—Southdown lamb—brought 50 cents a pound at the sale, and prices as a whole averaged very good.

Quarter Blood Wools.

It is stated by a trade paper that fine wools are not in supply to more than meet the demand of the spinners for the season, and the demand for the coarser grades, which has been somewhat slow, particularly quarter bloods, is certain to increase. This authority says:

In the past few years—in fact, ever since the worsted fabrics became so popular—there has been a staple demand for quarter blood wools along in December, January and February that has practically cleared up merchantable supply, and no reason exists why the same demand should not materialize this winter. We feel that the unsettled markets are but a temporary matter.

STEER FEEDING.

Effect of Feed Upon Value of Manure Produced.

J. M. Bartlett of the Maine experiment station has recently reported the results of studies of the relation between fertilizing constituents in feed consumed and manure (solid and liquid) excreted by steers during digestion experiments with hay, wheat bran and cottonseed meal. His figures seem to show that in the purchase of feeds it is important to take into consideration not only their flesh forming value, but also their effect upon the value of the manure produced. Feeds like cottonseed meal, which are rich in nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, produce manure rich in those elements, while feeds poor in fertilizing constituents produce poor manure. If the manure is carefully saved and used it may therefore often be more economical to buy the higher priced feeds, rich in fertilizing constituents, because of the more valuable manure obtained.

Another important fact emphasized in these experiments is that a large part of the nitrogen, the most expensive fertilizing element, as well as the potash, is found in the urine. Not only are the fertilizing constituents in large quantities in the liquid portion of the manure, but they are in more available form here than in the solid excreta. The liquid portion is therefore considered the most valuable part of the manure and should be carefully saved.

Hard Labor.

A story is told in the Boston Herald of a Vermont, Joe G., who is a faithful attendant of the little group that gathers regularly for social conversation in the country store. The talk turning one day upon farm work, Joe remarked that he was sure no man present worked harder than he.

"How much do you do?" questioned the storekeeper.

"Me?" answered Joe. "Oh, I meek nine cow every day."

"And do you have any one to help you?" pursued the merchant.

"Oh, yes," said Joe. "My wife, she help some."

"And how many does your wife milk?" continued the questioner.

"My wife?" responded Joe. "Oh, my wife she meek eight."

SHEEP DOG TRIALS.

In my part of Scotland there were no sheep dog trials in connection with the agricultural shows, but at some of the sheep clippings, or when the sheep were sheared, on some of the big hill grazings on sheep farms there used to be, and I think are yet, great trials among the shepherds and their dogs. The shepherds would make wagers with one another who had the best dog. Four to six two or three year old black faced wethers which had never known



(In Smithfield market. Photo by Wing.)

any restraint unless at clipping time were turned loose and started up the hill. The dog was sent to bring them back into the fold, drive them through a gate or two in the inside and then put them into a "bucht" or pen made of hurdles, sometimes in the center and sometimes at the side of the fold. This bucht was made one hurdle wide and two long.

It was a grand sight to see how thoroughly the dog understood every word and motion of its master, who was standing on some rock or knoll in plain sight of the dog. Fresh sheep were turned out with every fresh dog till the wagers were decided.

There is no need to buy dogs at fabulous prices. Try to get a pup of some known strain, no matter whether it has pedigree or not. The old English sheep dog is about as serviceable in this country as any.

When a butcher or dealer or, in fact, any person comes to the farm to look at the sheep with the intention of buying, the spare help does not require to be brought in from the field to assist in getting the sheep into the barnyard or sheep pen. If there is no pen made of hurdles in the pasture, the dog is used to drive them into a corner and hold them there till the party has seen and handled what he wants, says David M. Fyffe, writing in the Breeder's Gazette, Chicago, on a matter of fresh interest just now among sheep farmers in this country.

Good Work in Vermont.

The sheep dog trials held recently at the Vermont state fair were a distinct success, as reported in Country Gentleman, from which descriptions of one or two of the various events are here reproduced: To understand the sheep dog trials we must remember that the old kite shaped track is still in existence; that the new half mile track is built inside of the kite. The pen where the sheep were liberated was at the end of the large part of the kite. The shepherds took up position near the new grand stand and sent their dogs away, the dogs bringing the sheep alone some 300 yards to the shepherd past the new grand stand to the stretch through the draw gate to a pen in the middle of the field, where they were penned.

At a signal from the judge in the infield four sheep were turned out of the pen. Mr. Miller had taken his position, and a slight wave of his hand sent Bruce, a Bearded, away. He found his sheep readily, steadied himself nicely and brought them on quietly to his grand stand, the dog barking once or twice as they were inclined to be too quick, and made a fine turn through the gate to the infield and on to the pen. He moved quietly and was under perfect control all the while, never disturbing his sheep, but working with wonderful dash and precision; time, six minutes.

Next Fleet was sent away. She found her sheep easily and brought them on in excellent form, perhaps a little too fast, as was proved by taking more time to pen than the dog, as she reached the pen one-half minute sooner than he did. She moved carefully forward, but had not the dash or eye that Bruce had; time, eight minutes.

Then came R. Burns, from Toronto, with Bob, a sable collie. He found his sheep a short distance from the pen and took them in a creditable fashion down to his master. Together they went gayly past the stand and made a good turn through the gate and on to the pen. Then his troubles began. He had pressed his sheep a little too quick and had them irritated instead of imparting the confidence that is so necessary. He had driven rather than directed them; they were very perverse, and here the crowd, which had become much interested in the trials, came too near the pen, pushing both dog and man. He penned them, however, in twelve minutes.

Manure and Dairy Barn.

It is advisable to haul manure directly to the field from the barn, but if this is not feasible it should be removed at least 100 feet from the barn. In no case should it be allowed to accumulate against or near the dairy barn.

COLLAR AND BACK STRAP.

Use of Intelligence in Harnessing the Draft Horse.

By Dr. W. H. DALRYMPLE, Louisiana.

I once visited a plantation where a negro plowman rode up and asked if I could tell him what was the matter with his mule's wind, the animal having emitted an unnatural sound while in the plow. I noticed that the collar, instead of being right back in the collar seat on the shoulder, was at least four to six inches in front of it, causing the neck when the animal pulled to become tightly wedged in it, or, in other words, the animal was pulling the weight of the implement by the neck instead of by the shoulders, producing pressure on the windpipe, and in consequence the abnormal sound produced by the animal in breathing.

A collar to fit well and allow perfect freedom of the animal should have an even bearing on the shoulders. It should be deep enough below to avoid pressure on the windpipe and the large blood vessels of the neck. There should be no pinching from side to side, and the harness should be adjusted so that the traces will not be attached to them too near the point of the shoulder.

Misplaced Back Strap.

Some years ago I was invited to visit one of our large plantations to see if I could find out the cause of death of a number of the mules (nine or ten, I believe) from what appeared to be a paralysis of the back portion of the body and the hind extremities. I did so and took up a position where I could get a good look at the teams as they came in in the evening from the field. I was impressed with the fact that every second or third team had their back bands placed right back over the loins, with the trace chains hooked up to them. In company with the manager I rode out to the field the next morning and saw the animals at work in four mule plows. It could then be distinctly seen that those which were geared up as described were laboring under a tremendous weight over the loins through pressure of the back bands and were forced almost to the ground while pulling. I then drew the attention of the manager to the condition of things and suggested that he make it his personal business to see that the back bands and traces of every mule on the place were so adjusted that no undue pressure would be exerted over the loins. In about three months I received a letter stating that, in his opinion, the improperly adjusted back bands were solely responsible for the trouble and that he hadn't had a similarly sick mule since the change was instituted.

Some plow hands, who if not carefully watched, and to save themselves the trouble of adjusting the mechanism of the implement to the depth of plowing required, will place the back bands over the loins, hook the traces up to them and force the animals to not only pull but lift the plow, causing a tremendous weight to fall right on this part of the back, which has no support from the ribs and under which are situated the large propelling muscles of the hind limbs and the kidneys.

Gentling the Bull.

Good training for the bull is always a matter of importance. A New England scene that comes to mind is of a powerful animal drawing a sled load of wood over the snow. On many French farms the breeding bulls are given regular work. They may be used either singly, in pairs or with an ox. Regular work insures regular exercise and a good disposition. It is



[This Guernsey bull was raised by Mr. M. S. Secord, manager of The Oaks, Long Island, New York, and on several occasions has been ridden to the postoffice, a distance of two miles, always causing considerable comment regarding his quiet manners.—Country Gentleman.]

also said that bulls managed in this way to get a much larger percentage of calves than when confined in a stable or paddock.

Instances such as illustrated of familiar handling of the bull show what the exceptional trainer may accomplish. With most people the safest place for even the gentle bull is probably at the end of a good stout bull staff.

Quarantines.

Quarantine of cattle on account of the cattle tick has been lifted from 20,000 square miles in six states, and twenty counties previously quarantined have been admitted to provisional quarantine. Quarantine for sheep scabies has been lifted from Wyoming and Idaho. Another year ought to see this disease eradicated from Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.

Dairy Thermometer.

A correct dairy thermometer is indispensable in buttermaking. Temperature plays an important part all the way through. It is necessary to know the temperature of the dairy room, the water, the milk, the cream, when ripening, and, above all, the temperature of the cream at time of churning.