

The Town Cow Discussed.

One of the most annoying things that the country people have to contend with is the ordinary town cow. When the farmer leaves home he puts in the bottom of his sleigh or sled a bountiful armful of hay. This answers the twofold purpose of a seat and to keep the feet of himself and good wife warm. He arrives at town, unloads his wife in front of some store, and proceeds to hitch his team at some point about the public square. No sooner is his back turned than a dozen starved cows immediately surround his sled, and before he can say "Jack Robinson, with his own mouth open," every straw in his sled has gone through the gastric orifices of the aforesaid cows. We noticed one particularly careful fellow the other day. After hitching his team he took his hay and carried it into the court-house yard. He was going to have the dead-wood on that bunch of hay, and departed for a saloon with a grin on his face. We watched the proceeding with considerable interest. He was not out of sight until three or four long-horns opened the gate and proceeded to the pile and chewed it up. Clinging these lean kind does no good. In fact they rather enjoy the fun. You can take an ordinary stick of cord-wood and bounce it from off their carcasses fifty feet high and they will turn around and smile at you. They don't even grunt when you have hit them hard enough to stave in their ribs. Such punishment seems only to act as a tonic; it whets their appetites and makes them enjoy the repast which the farmer has hauled to them from his home many miles distant. And after it is all over, just notice the peculiar look they give the man who came to town sitting on a pile of hay, as he departs for home sitting on the bare boards! The town cow is a nuisance, but at the same time a necessity in all rural villages. A "home without a mother" would not be a more lonesome spectacle than a rural village without its herd of lean, long-horned, stump-tailed cows.

The London Fireman of 1805.

Each fire insurance company had its badge or cognizance, which was stamped on in sheet lead, painted and gilt, and then nailed onto the house insured—probably as an advertisement of the company. There was no fire brigade, properly so-called—that did not come till 1832—but each company kept a staff of firemen and engines. We have seen that these men acted as constables when Sir Francis Burdett was released from prison. Although the dress was of somewhat similar pattern, its color, etc., was left to the individual fancy of each company. The coat, waistcoat and breeches were of dark blue cloth, with brass buttons, while the brass badge adorned both his left arm and his helmet. This latter was made of horsehide, strengthened by cross bars of metal; its inside was of leather, quilted and stuffed with wool, to protect the head from falling bricks or spars. The engines were manials, and carried with them spare men to relieve those pumping when they were tired. The most powerful engine of that time could only throw a ton of water per minute through a 3/4 inch branch or nozzle, and the fireplug was simply pulled up and the water very wastefully supplied.

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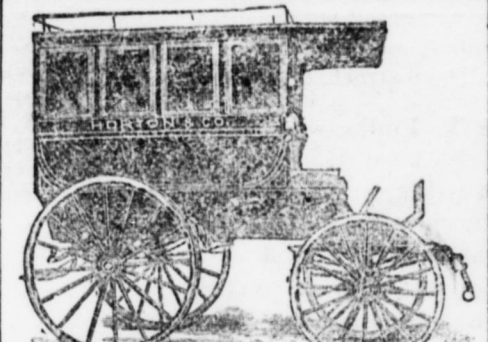
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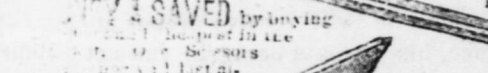
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