

THE PESSIMIST.

He sat down by the wayside. To all who came along He raised his voice of sorrow And sang a dismal song. Its intent never varied. For, though long did he sing, Until the people mobbed him— It was the same old thing.

THE BALKING OF CHRISTOPHER.

The spring was early that year. It was only the last of March, but the trees were filled with green and paling with promise of bloom; the front yards were showing new grass pricking through the old. It was high time to plow the south field and the garden, but Christopher sat in his rocking-chair beside the kitchen window and gazed out, did absolutely nothing about it.

came slouching around from his station at the barn door. He surveyed Myrtle uneasily. "Mr. Dodd sick?" said he, at length. "Not that I know of," said Myrtle, in a weak quaver. She rose, and, keeping her tear-stained face aloof, lifted the lid off the kettle on the stove.

"Now, I've begun at the beginning; I'm going on. I have never had what men call luck. My folks were poor; father and mother were good, hard-working people, but they had nothing but trouble, sickness, and death, and losses by fire and flood. We lived near the river, and one spring our house went, and every stick we owned, and much as ever we all got out alive. Then lightning struck father's new house, and the insurance company had failed, and we never got a dollar of insurance. Then my oldest brother died, just when he was getting started in business, and his widow and two little children came on father to support. Then father got rheumatism, and was all twisted, and wasn't good for much afterward; and my sister Sarah, who had been expecting to get married, had to give it up and take in sewing and stay at home and take care of the rest. There was father and George's widow—she was never good for much at work—and mother and Abby. She was my youngest sister. As for me I had a liking for books and wanted to get an education, right just as well as we have wanted to get a seat on a throne. I went to work in the grist-mill of the place where we used to live when I was only a boy. Then, before I was twenty, I saw that Sarah wasn't going to hold out. She had grieved a good deal, poor thing, and worked too hard, so we sold out and came here and bought my farm, with the mortgage hitching it, and I went to work for dear life. Then Sarah died, and then father. Along about then there was a girl I wanted to marry, but Lord, how could I even ask her? My farm started in as a failure, and it has kept it up ever since. When there wasn't a drought there was so much rain everything milled. There was a hail-storm that cut everything to pieces, and there was the caterpillar notion concerning it was futile interest on the mortgage; as for paying the principal, I might as well have tried to pay the national debt.

Plan for Shortening Mississippi River Two Hundred Miles. The levee system on the Mississippi River from Cairo to the Gulf of Mexico was intended to protect the cultivated lands adjacent to the river. This system has resulted in building up the bed of the river from year to year by reason of the fact that all of the tributary streams running into the Mississippi River have greater velocity, and consequently sediment brought into the main river, whose current is slower, is deposited in the river between Cairo and the Gulf. This is the main cause of the flood line going higher each year with a given rainfall.

Russia's Arctic Ports. The recent activity of German submarines in waters to the north of Norway revives interest in Russia's Arctic and White Sea ports, all save one of which will be closed to navigation until late next spring, when the ice blockade will be broken once more by that brief but most welcome visitor to North Russia, the warm summer sun, says a war geography bulletin of the National Geographic Society in describing two of the European ports through which, in addition to the White Sea metropolis of Archangel, the Czar's kingdom maintains communication with the outside world in spite of the war-bound Baltic and the impenetrable Dardanelles.

FARM NOTES. —Sorghum grain is a valuable poultry feed. —The 48 States are now spending \$280,000,000 a year on good roads. —Diseases of animals cause losses of \$212,000,000 a year in the United States. Much of this loss is preventable. —Wash water used in the churn should be approximately the same temperature as the buttermilk, or within 2 degrees of it. —More than 26,000 boys and girls were enrolled in 1915 in agricultural and canning clubs conducted co-operatively by State colleges and the department. —It is estimated that the man who ships 20 cars of grain containing 20 per cent of moisture pays freight on 1 car of excess water, using 15 per cent moisture as a basis. —Before the hogs go into winter quarters it is a good plan to do a satisfactory job of disinfection for the purpose of killing lurking disease germs and vermin. Probably the most convenient method of general disinfection is the custom of applying whitewash made by slacking lime in the proportion of one and one-half pounds of lime to one gallon of water. The effectiveness of this wash is increased by adding carbolic acid, at the rate of one pint of crude carbolic acid to four gallons of whitewash. For disinfection of buildings a 3 per cent solution of any of the coal tar preparations is recommended, and if desired this preparation can be applied with a broom or spray pump. —Why Hens Don't Lay.—Why don't hens lay at this time of the year? They do, if their owner is on his job. It is about as natural for a hen to lay in the fall and winter as it is for roses to bloom at the same season. But the expert poultryman now-a-days with his modern methods of breeding, of feeding, of housing and of handling has his hens to lay two hundred or more eggs per year and to lay a goodly number of these in the fall and winter. Can an ordinary farmer or small poultry keeper get a good fall and winter yield of eggs? He can if he will have a properly built house—not meaning an expensive one, but a house that poultry use and live in and can't be kept out of. He can if he will feed the modern way or feed all grain in litter; feed beef-scrap, fish scraps or milk-animal protein—heavily; feed dry mash, and perhaps wet mash. Questions like the above are now flooding the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the replies are broadly like the above. The outstanding feature of most of these letters is the fact that these writers manifestly believe that if they can learn what to feed their hens they must lay. That feed, good feed, or plenty of feed, will make hens lay is a great if popular fallacy. The Department wishes to especially emphasize that fecundity and persistency in laying are inherited factors and that usually, if a flock is to lay well it must be out of a flock ahead of it that has laid well. And that this is the factor that means the difference between hens not laying well at this season. —About the safest way to select a dairy cow is to see her milked. We know then what she is capable of giving. One can also tell pretty correctly by outward appearance, but this calls for more or less experience. The biggest risk is to take the owner's word. He has her for sale, and don't want to lose a customer—and—well you know what human nature is! The buyer wants a good cow, a cow that will show satisfactory profit over the cost of feed and care. So he will, to a large extent, have to use his own judgment. It is not uncommon for the seller to deliberately misrepresent the qualities of the cow he has to dispose of. It is a rare case where he will sacrifice his personal interests to tell of the animal's shortcomings. He may not intend to defraud his customer, but he will permit his enthusiasm to color his judgment. There are comparatively few owners of cows that really are acquainted with the capacity of their animals. Their knowledge is either guesswork, or from a careless measurement. A fresh cow in the morning, at her heaviest milking, will often top off her pail of milk with two inches of foam, and the exuberant owner will quickly give her credit for all milk, the two inches of foam being too small a matter to take into consideration. When the aforesaid owner comes to realize that his 11-quart pail had a flaring top, and a margin of two inches more, he finds his pail three quarts less than "full." At night the cow gives several quarts less than in the morning. If the milk is accurately weighed night and morning for a week or two, the owner may find that she gives an average of four gallons a day when fresh. At the end of two months she is apt to drop to three gallons per day, in six months to one gallon, and in nine months she is dry. In the year it may be found that she has given 6000 pounds of 3 per cent milk, or an average of less than two gallons per day. It is possible to come close to the cow's capacity by judging from appearances. As a rule, the wedge-shaped, prominent and tortuous milk veins, the deep chest and expansive barrel, the well-sprung ribs, the large and prominent eyes, the loose, smooth skin and fine hair, the angularity and mildness of disposition, all show strong possibilities of capacity for converting feed into milk with economy. Unless a cow has a large well-balanced udder, no one would expect her to be a good milker. There is just as much right in following facts as given out to select the desirable milk cow, as there is to look for blackness in the animal upon which to base good beef quality. An expert can usually pick out the best cows in a herd by following the dairy form.

Carnegie's New Summer Home Historic.

Concerning Mr. Carnegie's new summer home, Shadow Brook, Lenox, Mass., the New York "Herald" says the purchase was completed by Mrs. Carnegie Saturday afternoon. Her trip followed that of her daughter, Miss Margaret Carnegie. Miss Carnegie was at the Aspinwall Hotel for several days early last month and looked over the property. Mr. Carnegie has not been in Lenox. Mrs. Carnegie intends to spend \$100,000 or more in improvements. The only private residence in America said to be larger than that of Shadow Brook is the Biltmore House of Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt, at Asheville, N. C. Shadow Brook, first named by Nathaniel Hawthorne, is one of the show places of the Berkshire region. It was early in the late Anson Phelps Stokes began buying farm, forest and mountain land on the west side of Mahekean Lake, and acquired a place comprising 900 acres. Half way up the side of the mountain, along the crest of which the estate runs for two and one-half miles, Mr. Stokes built a mansion of old English architecture, several stories high, with a tower, a quarry faced marble, the second and third stories of stucco and timber and the roof of red tile. There are between sixty and seventy rooms in the house. The interior finish is chiefly old English oak. The Pompeian entrance hall extending through the house is finished with white panels with Pompeian friezes and the tower has a white marble fountain in the center. The property cost Mr. Stokes nearly \$2,000,000. In the summer of 1899 when he was riding a spirited horse through a bridle path the animal became frightened and dashed against a tree, crushing one of Mr. Stokes' legs so badly it had to be amputated. The next year the property was offered for sale, and the house and 250 acres were bought by Mr. Shotter. The remainder of the estate is now owned by the Rev. Anson Phelps Stokes. The land bought by Mr. Carnegie (250 acres) has a quarter of a mile frontage on Lake Mahekean, and the elevation of the house is 1,100 feet. Before its purchase by Mr. Shotter the house was occupied for several seasons by William A. Reed of New York, and for two seasons it was leased as a hotel. Last year Mrs. Alfred G. Vanderbilt had the place, which is one and three-fourths miles from Lenox Center and five miles from Stockbridge Center. Canadian Efficiency Meets War Problems. During the two years following the opening of hostilities abroad, Canada raised an army of 340,250 men. This number was made up of 1,250,000 subjects, eligible for service, out of a total population of about 8,075,000. It fitted these men with the most modern equipment and established six large training camps in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and Quebec, where volunteers have been and are being rounded into shape. In July of this year the various provinces had sent 190,000 troops to the aid of the allies and were drilling the remainder of its forces. The Canadian soldier receives the highest wages of any engaged in the present conflict. Privates are paid at the rate of \$1.10 a day, while the maximum for a commanding officer amounts to \$25 a day. Thirty-three thousand casualties have occurred among the 190,000 men sent overseas, in addition to a large number of maimed and permanently disabled fighters who have been returned. At the time of writing, Canada has raised \$400,000,000 for carrying on the war and is understood to be on the verge of voting additional funds. The country has contributed liberally to relief funds; up to last April had supplied 48,000 horses for its own and England's cavalry and artillery, and has sent nearly 10,000 physicians, surgeons, and nurses to the front.—Popular Mechanics.

New Steam Auto Possesses Remarkable Features.

As a result of prolonged experiments, a Detroit inventor has developed a steam-power automobile which seems to obviate most of the objections usually presented by vehicles of its type. In a general way it embodies many of the best features of both gas and steam cars. By turning a switch and opening the throttle, the car is started almost instantly. There are no gears, levers, or clutch to operate, while unlimited flexibility is afforded. From a snail's pace to a speed of 80 miles an hour, the car is said to run practically without engine vibration. There is no noise, and nothing to watch but the road. So far as appearance is concerned, the machine would ordinarily be mistaken for a gasoline car. Fourteen miles can be covered with a gallon of kerosene. The steam is condensed, after being used, and saved. This makes it possible to travel from 1,300 to 2,000 miles without replenishing the water supply. The fuel is vaporized, mixed with air in a carburetor, heated, and burned in a specially designed combustion chamber. A small electric blower supplies the necessary volume of air, while the ignition is accomplished electrically. The latter is the striking feature of the system, for it relieves the driver of the necessity of giving attention or labor to the matter of firing the boiler. In case the car stands inactive for several days, about a minute and a half is required in starting it. If, however, it has merely been idle over night, or during a corresponding period, it starts at once.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Amending This Goose.

How would this go at this critical stage when to live or not live is the question? I call it "A Mother Cow Melody." Hey, diddle, diddle, The cat and the fiddle, The cow jumped over the moon; And the dairymaid laughed, To see such craft, And vowed: "We'll have higher milk soon." —Ewes that are in good condition require little or no grain now, if they have plenty of good roughage. About a month before lambing time a little grain should be given them daily, so that they will be able to produce a good supply of milk and satisfactorily meet the other demands made upon them. Thin ewes will need grain all through the winter months, so that they will be able to pick up themselves and at the same time produce a good, strong lamb and a large crop of wool. —For high class Job Work come to the "Watchman" Office.

In Murder Trials.

"It's bound to come." "What is?" "The time when the beautiful actresses, instead of telling the jury her life story, will have it shown to slow music as a film." —As an illustration of the movement of Far Eastern markets toward the United States for their supply of metals, it is interesting to note that a firm in Hong-Kong, China, has recently placed an order in the United States for a considerable quantity of zinc. Heretofore these supplies have been almost entirely from Germany and Belgium, though at times some of the metal has been obtained from China. —No great war of our time has ended in the winter months, nor with the exception of the Russo-Japanese war, has any begun then. For a century all wars have begun in the spring, summer or early autumn and ended between March and August. —The population of the United States has increased by 24,000,000 people in the last 15 years, and the number of beef animals has decreased 6,000,000 and sheep 10,000,000, while hogs have increased only 11,000,000. —The United States Department of Agriculture has a large force which devotes its entire time to developing new by-products and methods of saving material now wasted. —A brilliant and permanent green can be produced from the juice of the stalk and leaves of nettles and is used to dye woolen stuffs. —Grackles and blue jays often destroy eggs and nestling of other birds.