

FOR KLONDIKE MINERS.

THE TASK OF TAKING 500 REINDEER TO ALASKA.

A Special Agent's Mission in Norway—How the Animals Will Be Disposed Of When They Arrive—Freighting With Reindeer.

Dr. Sheldon Jackson is now in Norway as the special agent of the War Department with power to purchase 500 reindeer, which the government will use in forwarding supplies to the destitute miners in the Klondike. Mr. Wm. J. Kjellman, superintendent of the government reindeer herd in Alaska, preceded Jackson to Norway and selected the animals and keepers for the proposed expedition. Lieut. Devore of the army, military secretary to Secretary Alger, accompanied Dr. Jackson as far as London and has arranged for the transportation of the herd of reindeer to New York, for which purpose he has chartered a steamer.

These waste materials are often actual poisons, and many a headache, many rheumatic pains and aches, sleepless nights and listless days and many attacks of the "blues" are due solely to the circulation in the blood or deposit in the tissues of these waste materials, which cannot be got rid of because of an insufficient supply of water.

Water is accused of making fat, and people with a tendency to corpulence avoid it for that reason. But this is not strictly true. It does undoubtedly often increase the weight but it does so because it improves the digestion and therefore more of the food eaten is utilized and turned into fat and flesh. But excessive fat, what we call corpulence, is not a sign of health but of faulty digestion and assimilation, and systematic water-drinking is often employed as a means of reducing the superfluous fat—which it sometimes does with astonishing rapidity.—Youth's Companion.

the drinking of water in any amount beyond that actually necessary to quench the thirst is injurious, and acting on this belief they endeavor to drink as little as possible. The notion, however, is wide of the truth. Drinking freely of pure water is a most efficacious means not only of preserving the health, but often of restoring life when failing.

All the issues of the body need water, and water in abundance is necessary also for the proper performance of every vital function. Cleanliness of the tissues within the body is as necessary to health and comfort as cleanliness of the skin, and water tends to insure the one as truly as it does the other. It dissolves the waste material, which would otherwise collect in the body, and removes it in the various excretions.

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CANINE CONSTABULARY.

A Force of Bloodhounds at Every County Seat Suggested.

We have frequently urged on the county authorities of this State during the past few years the expediency of the plan of keeping a few track hounds at some convenient point in each county, not only to trace actual criminals, who cannot be followed by any other means, but to deter the criminally disposed from the commission of contemplated crimes by the assurance which the presence of the dog detective affords that they will be speedily followed and caught if they give effect to their evil inclinations. The suggestion has been enforced on several occasions by reports of good service rendered by the dogs in the few counties where they are kept, and some very convincing testimony of the same character is added by our Florence correspondent in his letter, published yesterday.

After relating how the mere arrival of the dogs at Chadbourne had caused an unknown burglar to betray himself by attempted flight, he adds: "Major Day received a telegram yesterday from J. W. Cherry of Wilson, N. C., requesting that the bloodhounds owned by the city of Florence be sent to that place by the first train. These man trailers have been used considerably of late by the authorities in North Carolina for running down criminals, and they have been very successful. Florence, of course, gets good pay for them whenever they are used for any other purpose than running down criminals within the city limits. It has been a great thing for Florence, having these trailers on hand, for it has reduced burglary and incendiarism very nearly 100 per cent. During the time they have been here. These dogs are the same ones that ran down a murderer near Hub, N. C., last year, and ran down Edgar Purvis, the tramp who shot Flagman Blackwell on a Coast Line train at Dunn, N. C., about two weeks ago. They are sent anywhere upon receipt of a telegram, with assurance that the price will be paid for their services."

The lively demand for the animals from neighboring counties is evidence enough of their successful services heretofore, and proves that they are regarded as a useful police institution. They should be as useful in every county.

The most important testimony to their value, however, is afforded in the statement as to the effect of their appearance in reducing crime. The mere fact of "having these trailers on hand," we are told, "has been a great thing for Florence," as shown by the marked decrease in the number of cases of burglary and incendiarism alone, to say nothing of other serious or lesser crimes. A similar equipment should be a great thing for other towns or counties for the same reason, and when its small cost is considered it is really strange that every county is not provided with one.—Charlotte (N. C.) News and Courier.

Diet of Stout Persons.

It is a mistake for the stout person to refuse to eat fat. Starches and sugars, represented in such vegetable foods as bread, rice, tapioca and the like are fat formers. The living body has a power of making fat out of that which is not fat. And with this point in mind, it is another—that fat itself does not go directly, at least, to make fat in the body. Fat is, on the other hand, a valuable addition to the diet of a corpulent person because it has a power properly administered of burning off food excess. In more than one system of body reduction fat is, therefore, administered as an essential part and parcel of the diet cure.

How a Fish Swims.

The tail of the fish is his sculling oar. He moves it first on one side and then the other, using his fins as balances to guide his motion. If the fish is moving fast and wants to stop, he straightens out his fins just as a rower of a boat does his oars.

BIGGEST GUN ON EARTH.

TO BE PLACED ON ROMER SHOALS, NEW YORK HARBOR.

Early-nine Foot Long, Sixteen Inches Calibre and Throws a 2,500 Pound Projectile Sixteen Miles—No Armor Able to Resist It.

Unless some unforeseen accident occurs the largest cannon in the world will be in the possession of the United States Government early this spring. Advice received at the Army building in Whitehall Street from the Bethlehem, Penn., Iron Works, were to the effect that this great weapon is to be completed by that time. The gun is five feet longer and six tons heavier than the gun exhibited by Krupp of Germany at the Columbian Exposition, hitherto considered the heaviest piece of ordnance ever manufactured. The American gun is to weigh 126 tons and be forty-nine feet in length. In a vertical line through its breech the gun will be six feet in diameter. When completed the gun is to be part of the new system of fortifications to protect Greater New York, being located on Romer Shoals in the lower bay.

The plans for this gun were completed nearly two years ago, and the makers have been at work upon it more than a year. John F. Meigs, formerly a Lieutenant in the United States Navy, and Capt. E. L. Zalinski, the retired officer who invented the pneumatic dynamite gun, have been superintending the construction of the weapon. The inspection of the progress of the work for the Government has been made by Capt. Ira McNutt of the United States Ordnance Corps. These gentlemen have watched each step of the work from the smelting of the steel down to the rifling of the great barrel. They are sanguine there is no vessel afloat that can stand one shot from the gun. They are probably right when it is considered that the conical shot, as large as the body of a man and five feet six inches in length, is to weigh more than 2,500 pounds and is to strike with a velocity of 1,879 feet a second. To emphasize the havoc that a shot from this great weapon would create, an ordnance officer said that if the Empire State Express were sent at full speed into the side of a vessel the damage done would not be so great as that wrought by this projectile. No armor that a ship can carry can withstand its impact. The heaviest armor would buckle, and beams and ribs would splinter when struck by it. Besides the damage to the ship itself, every man within fifteen yards of the spot where the shot struck would be killed outright by the shock.

The gun is to be of sixteen-inch calibre and about 1,000 pounds of powder will be necessary to send the steel projectile over its computed range of sixteen miles. The heaviest projectiles fired up to the present time have been those tested in Germany, and they weigh but 2,000 pounds. The longest known range ever attained was that of a sixty-seven-ton gun tested during the Queen's jubilee. It threw a 1,400-pound projectile twelve miles.

Secretary Alger has engineers at work upon plans for a powerful turret in which the gun is to be housed. This turret is to be of the best Harvelized steel plates nearly two feet thick. Behind the outer armor there is to be a steel backing and more armor, bringing the total thickness up to more than three feet. No vessel could carry a turret of this thickness, as the weight would capsize any battleship afloat. The turret is to be forty-five or fifty feet in diameter. The turret foundation of granite and steel is to be sunk through the sand on Romer Shoals to the gneiss rock that underlies it. It is to stand twenty-five feet above the surface of the bay at high water. The roof is to be egg-shaped, so that a rain of projectiles from a hostile fleet would glance from it. Torpedoes are to be guarded against by a series of underwater barricades. The gun's range is to command all the channels of the harbor, and, supplemented by twenty 10 and 12 inch rifles at Fort Hamilton, fifteen more at Fort Wadsworth, forty rifled mortars at Plum Island and twenty mortars and twenty-two guns at Sandy Hook, it is likely to give any unwelcome visitor that tries to get into the harbor, a reception that will become historical.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

The "Smartest Dog."

John N. Conover, the liveryman, has perhaps the most intelligent dog in all this country. He is a shepherd, and is valued very highly by his owner, George Coffey, who went out home with Mr. Conover a few days ago, and upon his return related the following to a representative of "The News." "Well, sir, John Conover has got the smartest dog I ever saw, and if he was mine I wouldn't take \$100 for him. I was out at John's to-day, and it was raining. The dog was lying by the stove and John said to him, calling him by name: 'This fire is about out, and get a stick of wood.' The dog sprang up, went hastily to the woodhouse and returned with a stick in his mouth. Mr. Conover then remarked: 'Go up-stairs and get my old hat.' The summons was obeyed, and in two minutes Mr. Conover was presented with his hat, but it was not the one he wanted, so he told the dog to take it back and bring another one, describing it, and this time no mistake was made. He then said to the dog: 'It is raining; go and see that the cattle are in the field convenient to the barn.' The dog started with a yelp, and it was not long until he came in, satisfying his master that his orders had been obeyed."—Columbia (Ky.) News.

rifle as well, slung across his back; but times have changed since a man living on the frontier never left his house for work or play without his loaded musket.—Longman's Magazine.

STORY OF A SETTLE.

How Oze Russian Immigrant Became an American.

The fourth stage of the Dakota settler's progress, which I saw reached by but one man, and he had been in this country seven years, is the frame-house stage. The old-timer who has gained this height of prosperity lives in Mercer County, which is almost wholly settled by Russians, and his neat dwelling, containing six rooms, all on the ground floor, stands on a crest of the water shed between the Missouri and Big Knife rivers, commanding a glorious view of twenty miles in every direction. This man owns six hundred and forty acres of land, all of which is upland prairie, such as American farmers, having in mind the rich valleys of the Red, James, and other wheat-region rivers, had deemed unfit for cultivation. Nor could it be properly cultivated with their extravagant methods; but its Russian owner, in 1897, put one hundred and sixty acres into wheat that yielded him eighteen bushels to the acre, forty more into flax and potatoes, and enclosed the remainder with a wire fence as a pasture for his two hundred head of cattle. On the open range he herded a flock of sheep, and from the free prairie meadows he cut one hundred tons of hay, which he hauled home and stacked for winter use.

His stables and outbuildings, low but thick-walled and warm, form two sides of a square that opens to the south, while his dwelling and his adjacent granaries form the third side. Besides owning several teams of fine horses, a herd of cattle, and a flock of sheep, he raises pigs, chickens, turkeys and ducks; sends eggs and butter to market every week, is not in debt to any man, has \$1,000 in the bank, is estimated to be worth \$10,000 more. Seven years ago when he located where he still lives, he had less than \$500 with which to make his new start in life, and he was fifty miles from a railroad. But he had pluck, energy and thrift, besides a family of sons and daughters who had been educated to hard work.

Now, though the old man still hauls his wheat fifty miles to the railroad, he can count twenty-three homesteads from his own house; and though most of his sons and daughters have left him, he is proud of the fact that they are raising families of bright young Americans who will honor his name and bless him for their heritage of freedom.—Kirk Munroe, in Harper's.

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Romance of a Girl's Hair.

Some little while ago a magnificent specimen of human hair was exhibited in New York, soft as silk, rich brown in color, weighing seven ounces, and no less than five feet four inches in length. Its own intrinsic beauty would have been enough to secure it an interest, but the story attached to it made it doubly interesting. It came from the head of a Swabian peasant girl, who had two lovers, the one a poor peasant earning a small weekly wage, and the other a rich miller. The latter owned the cottage in which the girl and her widowed mother lived, and, being as mean and unscrupulous as he was wealthy, he threatened to drive out his tenants unless the girl married him, although he had already received part payment for the cottage, and they were working hard to pay off the rest of their debt. Before he had time to carry out his threat, happily a deliverance came to the village in the person of an itinerant hair dealer. To him, therefore, went the distressed damsel, sold her magnificent hair and put herself and her mother out of the power of the hated suitor. Her tresses were taken to the annual fair at Leipzig and there sold to an American dealer.

Jenious Prince Edward.

Prince Edward, the Duke of York's eldest son, does not approve of his new brother. The Duke of York, with his usual kindness, invited the servants from Sandringham to York Cottage to see the new baby, but when the nurse brought it in Prince Edward was very indignant at the attention bestowed upon it, and kept saying, "Take it away; take it away."

In Scotland the last day of the year, or New Year's eve, is called Hogmanay.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Keeping Grade Fowls—Foot Rot in Sheep—Necessary Apiary Equipments—Tuberoses Easily Grown—Etc., Etc.

KEEPING GRADE FOWLS.

The grade fowl is all right for poultry keepers who keep fowls for eggs or for sale as poultry, without trying to begin as breeders for sale alive. The grade can never be depended upon, and the grade roosters should be killed off every year, and only the pullets kept. When it is desired to replenish the flock a full-bred cock of one or the other of the breeds from which the cross is made should be used. If a third breed is introduced into the strain the progeny will be mongrels, and good for nothing for any purpose. Most farmers try to experiment with too many breeds. More than two will result in practical ruin to their flocks.

FOOT ROT IN SHEEP.

Now that there is a revival in the sheep-growing industry, a word of caution may be needed against trying to grow sheep on low or wet land. The natural habits of the sheep is on high and often rocky lands. By contact with rocks and stones the hoofs of sheep are naturally pruned. When they are kept on low, wet ground the hoof grows long, and being very little sensitive it is easily softened until it begins to rot. There can be no doubt that this is caused by some germ, for rubbing the hoof with blue vitriol, which is one of the best germ killers, will destroy it. But the germ seems to be indigenous to all wet lands where sheep are kept, and it is the worst affliction with which sheep can be afflicted. When it once gets into a flock it can be carried to land that is high and dry, and will propagate there.

NECESSARY APIARY EQUIPMENTS.

To care for a few colonies of bees, it is necessary to have a few implements: A bee smoker, a honey knife, a bee brush, queen cages, swarming box, a bee veil, besides extra hives; and if we expect to raise comb honey, we want section boxes and supers to hold them on the hives, also a supply of comb foundation. If we prefer to extract the honey, we want an extractor, and if we use the extractor we will not need the section boxes. The smoker is the indispensable article. A honey knife may be made of any ordinary good table knife with long and slim blade. A brush; nothing is better than quills from the wings of turkeys or geese. Queen cages are easily made from little blocks of wood, and so is also the swarming box, which is made of light stuff, about twelve by fourteen inches square with one end open, and sides perforated with one-inch holes, with a long handle similar to a fork handle put through the narrow way near the center of box. A bee veil may be made of cheap veiling stuff of any kind that will admit of as good vision as possible. A bee veil is not a necessity, although a beginner may get along better at first, but I think after you once get well started, the bee veil will be thrown aside.—The Epitome.

TUBEROSSES EASILY GROWN.

If to be grown in the open, start the bulbs in pots in March. Use small pots, one bulb in each, planting so the crown will be a little above the surface of the soil. Set in a warm place; keep the earth moist but not wet. When the bulbs show growth, give a cooler location, as rapid growth tends to weaken the plants.

Give fresh air freely, but do not allow any chills, as the tuberoses are very delicate and tender. Set the pots out of doors for a time on mild sunny days. Never give more water than is necessary to keep the soil moist. If kept too wet there will be few if any blossoms. About the first of June transplant to a sunny spot which has been freely fertilized with well-decayed cow manure. To secure fine blossoms the soil must be rich and mellow. When the flower stalks appear, tie to a strong support with a narrow strip of soft cloth, for wind, rain and sometimes their own weight will cause them to break. Should the nights grow cool before they flower, cover with newspapers, which are light and a perfect protection.

If for house growth set the bulbs in May, for succession of bloom, from April to June, at intervals of from two to three weeks. Fill six-inch pots with one part each of sand, leaf mold, old cow manure and good garden soil. Treat as directed above, sheltering from the intense rays of the sun and keeping in mind the caution regarding watering too freely. The pots may be kept on a sheltered piazza if preferred. Water about once a week with liquid manure. Should the green aphid appear spray with soapuds or a very weak solution of carbolic acid. The tuberoses is a charming plant, with flowers of waxy white and subtle, delicate, though heavy perfume.—American Agriculturist.

DEEP, OR SHALLOW PLOWING.

On the western plains, or that portion of them composed of what is known as the Loess formation, it is a matter of seemingly little difference what portion of the soil is turned upon the surface to form the seed bed, writes J. J. Edgerton, of Iowa. Soil from many feet down incidentally removed in digging wells, seems to furnish a congenial home for vegetation before it has gone through any process of disintegration after coming to the surface.

But with the average soils such is not the case. Usually that brought up

from many inches below the surface must be exposed to the air for several years before it will have decomposed sufficiently for plants to take kindly to it. It is due to this principle that bad results often follow deep plowing. When it is desired to decompose the deeper soil more rapidly, introduce more vegetable matter and underdrain where necessary. This is a better plan than turning it up on the surface to weather, thereby necessitating the burial of that part already decomposed.

Mr. Renney of the Ontario Agricultural College says, "When you have developed a good tilth upon the surface, keep it where the young plants can get at it and do not bury it, out of their reach." In his four year system of rotation he plows but once and that is to turn the sod, and it is done just deep enough to insure a good job of plowing. The tendency of the food materials of the soil, as they are rendered soluble, is downward, by reason of percolating waters. If the plowing is deep this fine tilth of soluble materials is turned down where it has a shorter distance to go before getting entirely out of reach of the young plant.

WINTERING HORSES.

Farmers within fifteen or twenty miles of the city will find it a profitable business to winter city horses. Those having plenty of straw, fodder and hay will find this method of disposing of it much more profitable than hauling it to the city. A large quantity of manure is made, and this should be hauled and spread as fast as made, over the timothy meadows. The manure, if properly handled, will pay for the feed and care of the horses, and the money received for their board will be clear gain. In selecting horses for wintering, care must be taken to get only healthy ones. The boarding horses should not be put into the same stable with the farm horses.

The oat straw and fodder should be cut by horse-power; give each horse a daily ration of one bushel of this cut feed, mixed with four quarts of bran, and ground oats. Feed half in the morning and half at night. Give six ears of corn at noon, with wheat straw and a small forkful of hay in the rack at night. The horses should be curried and rubbed down daily, and let out to exercise in the barnyard every suitable day. Water night and morning. With this feed and care, horses that are brought to the farm in the fall thin and footsore, will weigh from one hundred and twenty five pounds more in the spring. Keep the stalls free of manure; the manure should not be allowed to remain in the stable, as fermenting manure will surely produce lung fever.

While there is no great amount of money in the business, yet it is a very good method of disposing of the rough feed and making a large quantity of manure, which is always wanted.—Baltimore American.

OVER-FEEDING BROOD SOWS.

Many a fine litter of pigs is lost, and especially in times when farmers want to be particularly good to their brood sows by giving them too much feed the first three days after farrowing, says a breeder who has been successful. We have often noticed that the experienced brood sow, should she be allowed to have her own way at that period and has the range of the farm, will prepare her nest carefully on the south side of the hill, if possible, or with some other protection from the northwest winds. She will, if possible, make her nest close to a spring or slough. If her habits are closely watched, it will be noticed that she will eat nothing the first day. The second day she will probably go to the spring and take a drink, and maybe nibble green grass, if there is any convenient. The third day she may be looked for to come home, bringing her pigs with her with pardonable pride, and will usually bring a full litter of healthy squealers.

We do not recommend giving sows this liberty, but it would be better for some farmers if they did. By studying nature we can provide better quarters than nature furnishes, can take advantage of the instinctive wisdom of the brood sow and also of the wisdom of man, but upon one point, however, nature is inexorable; the brood sow must not be fed heating food the first three days. To do this is to invite cake udder, or what is known as milk fever, and destroy a litter of pigs. The first day give nothing but water—dish water is as good a thing as can be given. The next day stir a little bran in it; the third day add a little bran and oats; the fourth day a little corn might be added, but the sow should not have a full feed of corn for a week or two. There is no trouble in giving bran or shorts, or ground rye or barley, in the form of slop. In other words, the brood sow with a young litter of pigs should be fed for milk and not for meat. It should be remembered that for the first three days the system is feverish and that in no fever is there any appetite, and therefore to encourage a sow to eat food such as corn is simply inviting disaster.

Never give sour milk to the brood sow with a young litter of pigs. To do so is to invite scouring and ruin the prospects of the litter. When the pigs are two or three weeks old there is not much trouble in developing them right along, providing there is no disease to interfere with feeding operations. The difficult thing is to feed properly during pregnancy and the first two weeks after the litter comes into the world. There has been no time in the State when it was so important to look after these matters.—Farmers' Guide.

The luckiest lad in Toronto is Cawthra Mulock, aged thirteen. He had the good fortune to come into the world as the grandpaw of Mrs. Cawthra, a wealthy widow. She has just died, and left him an estate worth \$4,000,000.