

RURAL TOPICS

MANAGING VICIOUS BULLS.

As a rule, the wisest way of handling a bull that is inclined to be vicious is to hand him over to the butcher, as an animal of this class is never safe to trust. If he be one that has proven to be an extra good sire, and it is deemed desirable to keep him for service, the safest and simplest means of handling him is to blindfold him. He may be managed by means of ropes and pulleys, giving him room to move out of his stall when required, and bringing him back to his place; but it is a cumbersome method.

Blindfolding quietly takes all the conceit out of a blusterer. A broad bandage of double sacking securely fastened over his eyes, may serve the purpose ordinarily in the stable. This device may be used to good advantage in handling a nervous or excitable beast while being led to market or drawn in a wagon to be shipped on a train.

I remember a case of a heifer received on the train being so wildly excited that she would jump at a person approaching her to untie her halter, but, by throwing a blanket over her head, and afterwards tying a sack over her eyes, she was quietly unloaded and tied behind a wagon which she followed as meekly as one could desire.

Mismanagement or lack of thought makes a great deal of trouble in the handling of stock. How often do we see men chasing pigs all over the place in the vain effort to get them into a pen, the porkers always going in the direction contrary to the one they are desired to go; while, by having a pair of low light hurdles, hinged together, forming a V-shaped guide, the animals can be handled quickly, and with the use of no unseemly words.

Vicious bulls are generally made so by unwise treatment when young, giving them too much liberty, or using them cruelly. It is well to use them kindly, but they should be trusted no more than is necessary, for it sometimes happens that a bull that has been quiet, suddenly and unexpectedly becomes vicious, and maims a man for life or goes him to death. It is the part of wisdom to handle a bull with a strong staff and a safe connection with his nosering, no matter how quiet he may be.—W. H. Underwood, in the Indiana Farmer.

FARM NOTES.

Don't forget that a wire screen door is as beneficial in winter, as in summer, for the hen house.

Don't advertise yourself as a specialist, or an expert, if you have not exhibited your stock at the poultry shows.

The farmer generally gives less consideration to the roosts and nests than to any other part of his poultry house. This is not right.

Desiring to save labor, the roosts are nailed to the walls and the nests are so fastened as to become a part of the building itself in many cases.

Under such conditions it is impossible to thoroughly clean the poultry house and rid it of vermin, for as long as there is a crack or crevice in which a louse can hide there will be a rapid increase of the pests, as a single female lays enough eggs in a day to furnish the foundation for a million in a week.

The perches should be built so that they do not touch the walls at any place, for the red mites or lice which do the most harm do not stay on the fowls during the day-time but come forth at night to seek their prey.

If the perches do not touch the walls at any place, the lice will have less opportunity to hide, and then if the roosts are thoroughly wetted with coal oil once a week for a month or two, little difficulty will be encountered with these lice.

Coal oil is instant death to them and if the roosts do not touch the walls they cannot get away from the liquid but will have to stay and "take their medicine."

The instinct of self-preservation prompts fowls to perch on the highest point possible when taking their quarters for the night. They naturally desire to be above danger from below. For this reason, perches should all be on the same level, and not one higher than the other, or there will be crowding and fighting for the highest positions.—From "Roosts and Nests" in the Epitomist.

DRESSING AND MARKETING POULTRY.

The condition of dressed poultry when sent to the market largely determines the price. Frequently poultry raisers complain of the low price they get for their chickens when in truth the specimens sent should have been used for home consumption rather than for marketing. Poultry which makes a good show always meets a ready sale and brings good profits. Poultry dressed and packed in every conceivable way, without regard to appearance, seldom pays the shipper for his trouble, and, as a rule, he literally has to give it away to get it off his hands. This is wrong. A few poor birds in a crate of good ones ruin the sale of the whole lot as first-class birds, and injure the reputation of the shipper. It would be better to throw away the absolutely poor ones than to lower the price that may be realized from the sale of the good ones.

the appearance and are very likely to sour.—American Cultivator.

ECONOMY IS PRODUCTION.

Although fourteen bushels of wheat is about the average yield in this country, yet our farmers have not comprehended the importance of doubling the yield. Having plenty of land they look more to the area than to the substances from which crops are grown. Millions of gallons of liquid manure are wasted every year because no adequate provision is made on the farms for preventing this loss, and farms become poorer because a portion of the products of the farms flow away with every rain that comes down upon the manure heap. The waste materials that are of no value, such as weeds and rubbish, are allowed to damage in various ways, and even the solids of the manure lose much of their value because of not being properly kept.

This condition is found mostly on farms that have too much land in proportion to equipment. The labor that should be applied where it would prove most valuable is bestowed on too much land. The effort to raise fourteen bushels of wheat on an acre is twice as costly as to double the yield, as a profit may be possible in one case and impossible in the other. Everything not sold off the farm has value and is worth as much to the farmer as to the buyer of his produce. It is as important that he save and utilize his product, whether in the form of stock, crops or manure, as it is to send such to market to be sold for cash.—Epitomist.

MAKING ALFALFA HAY.

The best alfalfa hay is made by raking and cocking while fairly green and allowing to cure for several days in the cock. On account of the uncertainty of the weather, however, this method is often found impracticable and a quicker method in which the alfalfa is dried in the sunlight must be used. It is always very important that the raking and as much of the other handling of the crop as possible be done while the alfalfa is sufficiently green to retain its leaves, as the leaves are by far the best part of the plant.

A method of handling the crop which has given good satisfaction at the Maryland station is to cut the alfalfa in the morning as soon as the dew is off, allow it to remain in the swath as late in the afternoon as possible and yet get it raked before the evening dew falls and then put it in tall cocks, if it looks like rain; otherwise leave it in the winrow overnight. If the next day is sunshiny the hay is scattered after the dew is off, allowed to dry until late afternoon and put in the barn. If the weather is not favorable for drying, more than two days will be required to cure the hay.

Hay put in the barn or stack when only partially cured is likely to mold or to char and be dusty, so that it is practically unsalable, and in some cases sufficient heat is generated to ignite the whole mass.—Weekly Witness.

HORSE COLLARS SHOULD FIT.

A badly fitting collar makes the young team horse troublesome. It is of the greatest importance that the collar should fit perfectly, so that it does not cause discomfort to the animal nor wring or hurt its shoulders. The shoulders often become more or less tender at first through the pressure of the collar against them, and in order to harden the skin on them it is a good plan to bathe them with a solution of salt in water (or alum in water) when the young horse has finished its work for the day.—Weekly Witness.

TO SECURE RICH YIELD OF MILK.

An experienced farmer recommends, for the securing a large yield of rich milk from a cow, that she should be supplied with water, slightly warm and slightly salted, in which bran has been stirred at the rate of one quart to two gallons of water. The amount of the drink necessary is an ordinary water-pailful morning, noon and night. For those who stable and sell their cows, this will be found a good practice.—Weekly Witness.

REMEDY FOR SHEEP.

Look out for stretches. The symptoms are known by the sheep spreading its legs out and stretching itself. The cause is too much dry feed. The remedy is a bran mash and an ounce of raw linseed-oil.—Farmers' Home Journal.

THE ONE-CROP SYSTEM DON'T PAY.

A one-crop system followed year after year upon the same land tends to the breeding of insect enemies and to the development of fungous diseases peculiar to the crop which is being raised.—Weekly Witness.

The city of Milwaukee has almost abolished the use of horses in all municipal departments.

Cement is used for roofing in France, especially near Lyons.

Korea's average annual rice crop is placed at 2,560,000,000 pounds.

OUR NEW NATIONAL COSTUME.

(Hush! Not a word!—Tis only your Uncle Sam appropriately disguised for a trip to Washington.)



—Cartoon by Triggs, in the New York Press.

U. S. Government Spends \$20,000,000 a Year For Secret Service

Assertion That This Amount Was Paid Out in 1908 Will Form the Basis of a Rigid Investigation Into the Uses to Which Such a Sum Has Been Put—Representative Tawney Says Country Will Be Astonished by What Committee Will Reveal.

Washington, D. C.—The Senate Committee on Appropriations, which is carrying out the Senate's instructions to investigate the operations of the Secret Service and other detective bodies employed under the Administration, already has obtained sufficient information to show that in the last year sums of money aggregating about \$20,000,000 have been expended in secret investigation under the direction of the President. This knowledge will be used by the Senate committee's sub-committee of inquiry as the basis for a rigid examination into the uses to which such a vast amount of money has been put. Much of the money expended was not appropriated specifically for making investigations of a secret character, but was taken from lump sums placed at the disposal of the Executive to meet contingent expenses.

The criticism of the lavish way in which Government funds have been used for purposes of investigations is becoming very pronounced among Senators and Representatives, and they think it is about time to call a halt. Where all the \$20,000,000 was spent is a source of wonder at the Capitol.

In spite of reports to the contrary it is denied that there is any real basis for the belief that in undertaking to investigate the workings of the Government's secret agencies the Senate and House are making a first step in the direction of causing trouble for the President. The purpose of these inquiries, it is asserted, is to ascertain and prevent further abuses by the Executive and not to place obstacles in the way of the President in performing his legitimate constitutional and legal functions.

There is good reason to believe that the Senate investigation will result in an effort to define in unmistakable terms the relations between the Executive and the legislative branches of the Government and to make clear that moneys appropriated by Congress shall be used only for the purposes for which they were specifically appropriated.

The enormous ramifications of the system of Federal espionage, which has grown up largely under the Administration, extending even to the domestic affairs of citizens, are shown by figures quoted by Representative Tawney, of Minnesota, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations.

During the last session of Congress the Administration, which is now complaining because \$10,000,000 was taken off the usual appropriation for the Secret Service division of the Treasury Department, called for very large appropriations for other secret investigations, and these appropriations were actually made by Congress. The several amounts reached the enormous total of \$8,125,000.

While it is only fair to say that a part of this large sum was expended for investigations essentially secret in character an enormous amount was intended to further the secret police and investigation work of the Government; the rest was for various inspection work.

Representative Tawney and other members of the House Committee on Appropriations declared that large

Costs Santa Fe \$2,000,000 to Replace Telegraph With Phones.

Chicago.—The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad announced that it would operate the entire main line from Chicago to the Pacific Coast by telephone instead of by telegraph as now.

Contracts have been let for the installation of the telephone system between Kansas City and Emporia, Kan. As soon as this section is finished work will be begun between Kansas City and Chicago. The cost will be \$2,000,000.

sums of money have been diverted for other purposes than those designated or intended by the law. The investigation about to be begun by the House is intended to uncover as many of these abuses as possible.

Speaker Cannon named Representatives Olmsted, of Pennsylvania, chairman; Currier, of New Hampshire; Young, of Michigan; Brantley, of Georgia, and Bowers, of Mississippi, as members of the special committee authorized by the Tawney resolution to investigate the various branches of the Government Secret Service. Messrs. Brantley and Bowers are Democrats. Mr. Bowers is a member of the Appropriations Committee.

As the result of the passage of several laws in the last few years, with other reasons, the number of men employed to discover violations of statutes has increased nearly twentyfold within a decade. According to Mr. Tawney, the number of these men on the Federal roll just prior to the Spanish War was less than 200; today it exceeds 3000, and the appropriations for their maintenance have jumped from a little over \$1,000,000 to seven or eight times that amount. This is aside from other expenditures.

Some of the large items contained in the current appropriation act, that is, those that were passed last winter, were shown by Mr. Tawney and Mr. Smith, another member of the Appropriations Committee. They are as follows:

For the detection of violations of the postal laws, \$1,105,000.

For the detection of violations of the internal revenue laws, \$125,000.

For the detection of frauds on the customs, \$200,000.

For the detection of counterfeiters, \$115,000.

For investigations by the Bureau of Corporations, \$175,000.

For special agents and inspectors in the enforcement of the Interstate Commerce act, \$450,000.

For the detection and prevention of deceptions on public lands, \$500,000.

For the investigation of Anti-Trust law violations, \$250,000.

For special agents for the Pension Bureau, \$350,000.

For the enforcement of the Meat Inspection law Congress appropriated \$3,000,000, the bulk of which is said to have been expended for inspection services.

Similarly a large part of an appropriation of \$825,000 for the enforcement of the Pure Food act, it is asserted, is paid out for inspectors. A sum approaching \$1,000,000 annually is said to be expended for the enforcement of the immigration and Chinese exclusion laws.

All this is aside from appropriations for the collection of evidence in the ordinary litigation which occupies the time of the Department of Justice, including the pay of United States marshals, special attorneys and experts of various kinds. It readily can be seen that with appropriations made in lump form, such as the foregoing, it is difficult to segregate the amounts paid out for actual work of detection of all kinds, and it is this, among other things, that the investigation is expected to disclose.

Forty-two Kentucky Counties to Stamp Out Bad Men.

Lexington, Ky.—A call has been issued from Jackson for a great mass meeting to be participated in by delegates from forty-two counties in Eastern Kentucky to be held in Jackson early in May, at which the general situation will be discussed and plans put forth for the stamping out of lawless cases, including feudists, illicit distilling of whisky and operating of "blind tiger" saloons. Mass meetings will be held in each county to choose delegates.

WOMAN

STORY TELLING A FINE ART.

A girl who has her way to work through college is doing it by her knack of keeping children amused. When the question of meeting the expenses of her education arose the girl seemed to have no means of earning money, as she had no bent or training.

One day as her small nephews hung entranced on a fairy tale she was repeating the idea of story telling for profit came to her. From childhood she had the power to keep children happy, no matter how restless.

The college the girl attends is in a large city, where she had but few friends. Those she had were immediately written to and their influence solicited. One, a teacher in a large private school, introduced her to a number of the patrons, who were only too glad to have their little ones amused for an hour or so in the afternoon.

Another friend lived in an apartment house, and had often been sorry for the lonely lives of many of the children in it after school hours were over. She spoke to a number of the mothers about the girl's project, and a story-telling class was arranged for three afternoons a week.

The children were collected in one room, and were kept happy for an hour and a half at a time with stories. So successful was the plan that other mothers heard of it, and the girl soon had all leisure hours employed.

She sold only her time and made no attempt to collect the children or see that they were safely returned to their homes.

The stories told were of all kinds. Many were tales from history. Noted bits of fiction were adapted to childish language. There were fairy tales, mythology, the child stories of Kipling, Seton-Thompson, Stevenson, and the old-time favorites of Sophie May, the Prudy Books, and the Gypsy Brenton Series were told to a new generation.

Much good poetry is now recited over and over again until the children grow to know and love it; nor are tales of adventure and Bible stories omitted.

There is little attempt at discipline. The girl's theory is that the children must be interested, not forced into interest. Sometimes the little ones grow restless, but usually they are clamorous for more when the hour is through.

In the summer the girl goes to the seashore and has story-telling classes that keep her busy most of the day. At this season of the year she includes many nature tales in her list, and the children gain in knowledge as well as in entertainment.

Such an occupation requires a knack that is not possessed by all women. There must be a real love of children, besides a happy gift at putting things in picturesque language.—New York Times.

FASHION NOTES.

Cloth top boots are to again be in vogue.

Black is in the height of fashion for opera gowns.

Many skirts are unlined, and cling as never before.

One of the newest fancies is for stiff linen collars, trimmed with color.

Soutache of self-shade often trims the corsage and is a pretty relief.

Many new dancing frocks are made of tulle, embroidered with beadwork.

Heavy serges are being used extensively for both morning and afternoon suits.

The simulated buttonhole, elaborately worked, is seen in every variety of gown.

Classical lines will govern the evening modes of the present season, as well as the daytime wear.

It is a season of myriad colors. Everything is seen from the faintest tints to the most gorgeous hues.

Russian turbans of white marabout and spotless ermine are destined to be taken up for visiting hats.

The Cossack turban sits flat on the head and covers the forehead as well as most of the back hair. Although it is not at all becoming, this barbarous-looking turban has taken Paris by storm.

The separate collar is a happy idea for the woman who likes to give a good gown good, hard wear. With the collar she has a luncheon gown, without it a dress for the restaurant or theatre.

A marked feature of the new skirts is the shifted position of the closing. They almost invariably fasten on the left side of the back, although the bodices continue to close in the centre.

Afternoon gowns that are suitable for receptions, teas and other affairs of more or less informal nature, are made of broadcloth, chiffon-velvet, and silk cashmere, and are in sweep length.

To part the hair in the middle is just now the fancy of the Parisienne, the waves being brought well down over the face, while the hair is turned abruptly back at the sides over two cunningly inserted side pads.

COLONIAL HOUSEWIFE'S "HELP."

"If the city woman who feels she must reduce the complications of living by taking refuge in a modern apartment could only read the diary of her great-grandmother, she would hide her head in shame," says

Ella Morris Kretschmar, in "Good Housekeeping."

"We justly rebel against today's demand (in cities) for \$5, \$6 or \$7 a week, with no washing or ironing, no window cleaning or rug beating, with half me Thursdays and me Sundays off, and relative unreasonableness in town and country on the part of all who seek service in the family. But the service rendered by any and all of today's malcontents would have been heavenly deliverance from the intolerable conditions of Colonial time.

"For 'help' the Colonial woman had to choose between an Indian who might scalp her, if the mood or fancy so dictated; 'blackamoors' not yet outgrown African savagery, the town poor sold to the highest bidder, bound convicts transported for crime, or ignorant creatures who had been beguiled to board ships that carried them off to virtual slavery, and 'freewillers' discontented under and impatient for the end of the compact which bound them. Occasionally she had a chance to engage a respectable young woman who had come from England or Holland to find service, but she never failed to lose her through speedy marriage. With such an appalling amount of work which the Colonial mother and housewife had to do, what wonder that even the disheartening choice enumerated was regarded as possibilities for which to thank Providence!"

ONE WOMAN'S WAY.

She preserves flowers by placing them in weak camphor water.

She keeps colored socks and stockings from fading by soaking them over night in tepid water to which a cup of turpentine has been added.

She uses salt to remove the stain made by eggs on silver.

She takes the trouble to examine all of the canned goods that she buys. If the cans bulge outward it is a sure sign that they have not been properly sealed and that air has got in.

She improves the flavor of her coffee by adding a pinch of salt.

She keeps a box of borax in her kitchen and adds a little to the water when she is boiling out enameled saucepans to cleanse them perfectly.

She keeps water pipes clear by dissolving one pound of potash in one quart of water. Just before retiring she pours the mixture into the water pipe of the sink. During the night the lye acts on the grease so that the first current of water turned on in the morning will wash it away and the pipe will be as clear as new.—New York Mail.

WOMAN AND THE EXTRACTES.

A top all the reproach woman has launched at man these many decades for going out between the acts she has become guilty of the practice herself. More than that, the theatrical manager encourages her in it. Else why the velvet carpeted strolling places behind the auditoriums of the newest theatres? And woman is making most of her opportunity. The matinee girl began it, but it is not the only offender against the tradition that one should stay seated from the rising of the curtain even unto the going down of the same with no commutation for good behavior in the way of limb-stretching during the intermissions. Nor does woman restrict herself to sauntering about the lobby. She takes her door check manfully and fares abroad for the few minutes 'twixt act and act. Confectioners near theatres reap a harvest in the sale of ice cream sodas. For what pleasure could woman find in the newly usurped privilege did she not enjoy it after the manner of him who, until late, guarded it jealously, though somewhat shamefacedly?—New York Correspondent of the Pittsburg Dispatch.

TRY ON NEW BOOTS.

You would hardly believe that there are special times and seasons for the trying on of new shoes. But so it is. You need a larger pair of shoes in summer than in winter, and it is always best to try them on in the latter part of the day. The feet are then at the maximum size. Activity naturally enlarges them or makes them swell; much standing also tends to enlarge the feet. New shoes should be tried on over moderately thick stockings; then you can put on a thinner pair to ease your feet if the shoes seem too tight. It is remarkable what a difference the stockings make. If they are too large or too small they will be nearly as uncomfortable as a pair of shoes that are too tight. New shoes can be worn with as much ease as old ones if they are stuffed to the shape of the foot with cloth or paper and patiently sponged with hot water, says Woman's Life. Or, if they pinch in some particular spot, a cloth wet with hot water and laid across the place will cause immediate and lasting relief. Milk applied once a week with a soft cloth freshens and preserves boots and shoes.

USE OF A FIANCE.

Girls nowadays seldom care to get married before they are 25. They are willing to get engaged, and many girls say that the ideal life is to live at home, have some business to occupy their time and a fiance to spend his money on their amusements.—The Sketch.