

FARM AND GARDEN

LAW AGAINST DE-GRADING.

Wisconsin (of course, Wisconsin) took the lead in this matter of horse-breeding. They have a singularly forceful veterinary surgeon at the University of Wisconsin, who is also one of the most influential members of the faculty. (Fancy such a condition at Harvard or Yale!) His name is Alexander Septimus Alexander, and he "kissed" a bill to help horse-breeding through the Legislature. He hid the full import of it even from the legislators until after they had passed it. When the bill had become a law and its enforcement began, the owners of mongrel stallions shrieked. But it was too late. The Legislature had adjourned.

Alexander's law provides that when a man stands a grade stallion publicly, he must announce in large letters on his advertising matter that he offers a grade stallion.

Speaking in a very general way, a grade is any animal of mixed, mongrel, or impure blood. A big chunk of a blood bay with feather on his legs would be commonly called a grade Shire, for instance. Properly, a grade Shire could be got only by a pure-bred Shire sire. To breed a pure-bred mare to a mongrel stallion would not be grading up, but "de-grading."

A grade is often a handsome individual, but he is unsafe to breed to, because the inferior blood concealed in him is apt to show in his offspring.

Alexander's law, besides compelling grade stallions to be advertised as such, absolutely prohibits the public service of stallions with defects pronounced hereditarily by the State veterinary inspectors.

Wisconsin passed this law in 1903. Iowa, Minnesota, Utah, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, have now followed suit, and the idea is spreading. The only incomprehensible thing about it is its absence from the Oklahoma Constitution.

In the meantime, up in Madison, Dr. Alexander is blazing away at his pet enemy, the grade stallion. He is now using his influence over the various county fair secretaries of the State to taboo all grades from county fair show-rings.—From "The Pervercher and Others," by Joseph Medill Patterson, in Collier's.

THE FAT ON THE HOG.

The hog that is to be kept on the farm for breeding purposes does not need much fat on him. The more fat he has the more expensive of muscle and energy there is required to carry it around and the more food must there be expended for that purpose alone.

The hog stores nothing on his body except what may be used for some other purpose than to please the butcher. In fact, the butcher is not looked out for by nature. The object nature has in storing up fat is to give a surplus to be used as fuel in the lungs. This fat is to be burned up in the creating of energy to keep the machinery of the body in motion and in the creating of heat to keep up the temperature of the body. There is, therefore, no reason for putting on the back of a hog a lot of fat for him to carry about with him till he needs it. It would be like piling onto the tender of an engine more coal than could be used in a single trip. The extra weight would be carried for nothing and would only be kept for breeding purposes should, therefore, have only a small amount of fat on him at any time. This will make it more natural for him to exercise and the exercise will improve his health.

The fat on the hog that is to be sold is worth money in the market and should be put on freely. The animal should not, however, have so much fat that he is likely to go down when on the journey to market. The buyers of hogs like to have fat ones but they do not want them too fat. An overfat hog is apt to become too hot when on the way to market and die before reaching the end of his journey. The custom that prevails now of marketing hogs at about ten months results in few of them being too heavy with fat at time of marketing.

The fat on the mature hog is put on profitably, but on the half-developed carcass it is less profitable. Too large a proportion of it consists of pure fat, and the price of corn is too good at this time to make that kind of a hog very profitable. Every pound of fat put on a hog by the use of corn is put on at a loss, and this loss has to be made up by the improvement in price of the whole carcass. The smaller the carcass the less chance there is of a profit. In fact, trying to put a big lot of fat on a half-developed carcass is a losing operation at this time.—W. H. Underwood, in the Indiana Farmer.

SHELTERING VEHICLES AND MACHINES.

Notwithstanding the number of carts, and mowing-machines, and horse-rakes, and other tools that we see standing by the roadside or in the field, the year round, most farmers believe in the economy of housing all these things. They know that iron rusts, and that wood-work swells and

shrinks with the changes of the atmosphere. They think it is only a question of time that the new carriage house or shed shall be built, where the scattered tools and vehicles will have a permanent home. This waiting to provide the needed shelter is the most expensive kind of saving. The elements are all the while at work, depreciating the value of the wood and iron that are exposed to the weather. A scythe and snathe hung in a tree, through one season is old, warped, and rusty. Stored in the tool-room it is little changed in look or value; no repairs are wanted, and it is ready for use as soon as the grass is ready. The new cart that is left by the roadside soon goes to pieces; even if painted, the paint soon wears off; the sun cracks, the paint and wood, the heat expands the cracks, the rain enters the openings, and decay commences, the joints become loose, the fellos and spokes shrink in the dry weather, and the tire must be set often to keep the vehicle in running order. Farmers often overestimate the expense of a tool or wagon house. If they have timber or building stone upon their farms, very little money need be laid out to put all running gear under cover. A roof and siding to keep out rain is the main thing. Flooring is not needed. The bare earth under all wooden wheels with tires, if dry, will answer instead of plank. Just enough of moisture is absorbed from the earth to keep the wheel in good condition. The tire will not need setting so often. A shed set upon a back wall makes a good shelter, and is within reach of most farmers.—Weekly Witness.

FARM NOTES.

Cows should be judged by their general appearance, conformation, and records as milk and butter producers. Keep large grit, charcoal and oyster shells before your older birds and you will need no hospital.

Last year's mistakes are all the teaching needed for this year's advancement.

One minute spent putting a tool away saves at least two minutes finding it next time, if it can be found at all.

The prudent man considering a new scheme is like a rat in one respect; he will not enter unless he can see the way out. Trouble is, some traps spring both ends at once.

Now it is the merchants' association of New York city that is complaining of the express companies. They assert too much profit is being made as inflated capital, and they ask that the business be investigated.

Keep the henhouse clean. Great piles of frozen manure underneath the perches is not a very good testimonial for the owner and not much encouragement for the hens to do their best.

The little trees in the woodlot will be larger some time. Cut out the large ones and give them a chance.

Save some of the best young hens for breeding purposes. Eggs from thrifty two-year-old hens are pretty sure to hatch.

Poultry manure is worth not less than \$12 a ton. But if you store it where it will get wet, it will not be worth much of anything.

You might about as well throw your hen manure into the creek as to mix it with ashes or lime. Peat or muck is the best to use as an absorbent. Queer that some folks never think of providing shade for their hens in hot weather!

HOT BED FOR SWEET POTATOES.

Please tell me how to make a hot bed for sweet potatoes, and the right time to put the potatoes in for early plants. A Reader.

Answer:—Make your bed perfectly flat, and a good size is 6x16 feet. Put your manure in hot, and pack well firmly. It should be about one foot in depth after it is well packed. When frame is set on the bed, shake in enough manure to make four inches more after it is thoroughly packed as before. Then fill the frame nearly full of good mellow earth. The best soil for this purpose is well rotted leaf mold, and it should be at least seven inches deep. Cover the bed with straw to the depth of 8 or 10 inches, and above this make a roof of light boards, with slope enough to carry off the water. The bed should be prepared about one month before the plants will be needed, which would make the time between the first and the middle of May.—Indiana Farmer.

BULKY FOOD FOR HENS.

The bulky meal, cut fodder, clover shatterings, and vegetables, can be profitably given at noon, and enough of this should be given to completely satisfy the hens. Never but they will be hungry for their grain supper.

The coarse bulky feed is the cheapest ration one can give the hens, so it would seem they would never want for it, but it is more bother, and too many expect to receive the profit from the eggs, without the bother of aiding the hens to produce the eggs.—Indiana Farmer.

Stamps up to the denomination of \$500 have been issued by the government of Victoria, Australia.

SAME OLD GAME.



—Cartoon by C. R. Macaulay, in the New York World.

Mrs. Taft to Make White House a Home

Plans Divorcement of the President's Official Business From His Private Residence--Uniformed Police Gone--Housekeeper Replaces Steward and Negro Footmen Are Doorkeepers.

Washington, D. C.—Mrs. William Howard Taft, "first lady of the land," has assumed duties without public ceremony or oath of office which, in these respects, are primarily by means of her long experience in public life. She is in full possession of the detailed requirements of her position, and is already making the minor changes in the administration of the executive mansion necessary to meet her own ideas.

The addition of the executive office building permits of the divorce of Mrs. Taft's official business of the President from the White House proper, and this is to be availed of to the full extent. That the main entrance of the White House may present as near as possible the appearance of a private residence, the uniformed police officers and frock-coated doorkeepers have been eliminated, and in their place are negro footmen in livery. For safety an officer is retained on duty in the miniature office room inside the main entrance, and another on the second floor of the mansion.

The rights of the public are recognized by the maintenance of the hour from noon until 1 o'clock, when admission is granted through the east entrance to the historic East Room and the parlors of the main residence. Mrs. Taft has abolished the position of steward, and will conduct her domestic arrangements through a woman housekeeper.

While the season of prescribed official dinners is over, it may be predicted that the new tenant of the White House will conduct a series of informal social functions during the special session of Congress which will begin in renewed animation and social life to the senate and senate structure during the first few months of the Taft regime.

President Taft surprised church-goers by walking democratically to services at All Souls' Church. He was accompanied by his brother, Charles P. Taft. The crowd of curious that had gathered at the edifice to see the new President were expecting to see him arrive in an automobile, and the President and party were at the doors of the church before the expectant throng realized that the Chief Executive had walked through the crowd without being recognized.

There was no demonstration along the street or at the church. When the services were over the President elbowed his way through the crowd

that had again gathered at the doors and on the sidewalk to see him emerge, and with his brother entered quietly up Fourteenth street. For some distance a hundred or so of his admirers followed, but they eventually dropped off one by one.

President Roosevelt always caught the crowds on his way to and from church. His rapid gait, and the difficulty the Secret Service men had to keep pace with him always served to attract the attention of passers-by. Mr. Taft declined to walk so rapidly, observed all the conventionalities and altogether was a disappointment.

It was noticed that the two Secret Service agents who kept close to the President wore the conventional frock coat and silk hat which is the distinctive garb of the service operatives. President Roosevelt never insisted upon this, and as a result the men who watched over him arrayed themselves as they saw fit. The change is taken to mean that President Taft proposes to maintain a more dignified establishment than his free-and-easy predecessor.

After Sunday luncheon the President bestrode Sterret, his newly acquired horse, purchased at Hot Springs, Va., and with General Clarence R. Edwards, his military aid; Captain Archibald Butt, and ex-President Roosevelt's orderly, McDermott, went for a twelve-mile ride over the newly constructed Potomac speedway.

Automobiles will be almost the exclusive method of locomotion of President Taft and his family. The White House automobile will have the right of way throughout the District of Columbia and will know no speed limit.

Two fine new automobiles already have been purchased with the \$12,000 appropriated by Congress for this purpose, and Mr. Taft has given them a thorough trial. One is a good weather machine, a big touring car with detachable top, and painted in dark green of three shades. This will be the one most used by the President. The other car has a limousine body, painted black, and was purchased for the use of Mrs. Taft. Both bear on each door the official coat of arms of the United States.

The cars are in charge of men sent from the factories, who will turn the machines over to the White House head chauffeur, who will receive \$100 a month. He will have one assistant.

The White House garage will be in the present stables. Besides the two automobiles they will quarter seven horses, which will be at the disposal of Secretary Carpenter and his assistants, or may be used by the Tafts.

The only horses which will be used by President Taft and his family will be the new saddle horse recently purchased in Virginia for the use of the President and any saddle horses required by the other members of his family.

"DECEIT ALL RIGHT TO HOLD A HUSBAND."

Chicago.—"Feminine deceit is all right. Love piracy is all right. Keep your husband loving you by any hook or crook. But for heaven's sake don't go to bed with a quarter of an inch of cold cream on your face to tip him off on how you keep beautiful."

These pregnant thoughts were vouchsafed 300 of Chicago's wives and mothers at the Music Hall, Fine Arts Building, by Mme. Hattom, matrimonial philosopheress of the Windy City's Smart Set.

"I don't care what method a woman uses to make her husband think she's prettier than she really is let her be. If she succeeds in that and holds him true to her, cosmetics are the real agent of morality. But scores of married women I know of deserve to lose their husbands. They think so much of him that they leave their toilet articles lying in full sight about the house, confess they go to massage artists, throw rats carelessly about and even admit to strenuous gymnastics to keep down weight and give artificial lustre to sinking eyes."

"Women ought to keep their husbands guessing all the time—just as the coy girl of romance plays hide and seek with the grand passion, until she has her sweetheart groveling and trembling lest the 'Yes' she has secretly meant to say from the start won't be said at all."

"Here is the secret of keeping a husband. Stay beautiful and don't let the male half know the reason. Also, don't eat too much. Given the aid of modern corsets and lacings, the American wife is indefensible if her husband deserts her because she has grown fat."

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Football and Baseball Give Harvard a Surplus of \$26,091.

Cambridge, Mass.—A surplus of \$26,091.10 in receipts over expenditures in all lines of Harvard athletics is shown by the report for the college year 1907-08. The total receipts were \$127,318.44 and the total expenditures \$101,227.34. The total net surplus exceeds by \$14,450 the surplus of the previous year, the gain being due in part to increased receipts from football and baseball and in part also to a saving on football coaching and the training table.



VALUE OF KEEPING A BANK ACCOUNT.

The holiday season is long passed, and it is time to get down to business and think of your bank book. This is a good time of year to save money. You will not need new clothes before the spring, and if you are wise you will bring the bank account along at an amazing pace. You will be surprised to find the number of things you can do without. Every time you deny yourself your bank book grows.

Independence is a delightful thing, and you will be so proud to know that in case illness or misfortune comes your way you will not have to turn to your relatives or friends for aid!

If you are engaged to be married save your money, and you will not go to your husband a penniless bride. Don't lend your savings to your fiancé, or to any other man. If you lend your money you in turn may have to borrow, and so you see you really have no right to lend. The refusal to lend is not a sign of stinginess. It is merely a proof of wisdom. And in any case, the man who would borrow money from a self-supporting woman is not worth wasting your hard-earned money on.

Make a habit of putting aside a sum, no matter how small, every week. It is hard to give up the pretty trifles that every girl loves, but it is far harder to be poor and dependent on the charity of others in your old age.

Every cent you save now will benefit you in the years to come. Even if you marry it will be better to have a little nest egg of your own.

And if you do not marry it is imperative that you have a little money saved up. I know many unmarried women who live with relatives, and the ones who are happiest are those who are able to pay their own way.

The time to save money is now, while you are young and strong. Surely you do not want to work all your life? If you save now you rest when you are old and tired. There is no sadder sight than a woman who is old, tired and poor.

It is very nice to have a good time and spend all that you earn on fun and pretty things, but never forget that hard times may come. You may be ill and earn nothing for a time. The money may not come in, but the bills must be paid just the same.

Have a care for the rainy day and save your pennies in view of it. Begin your bank account this very day. If you have none, and if you have one, begin adding to it regularly all you can.—New Haven Register.

THE WOMAN OF THE DAY.

If the changes wrought by electricity are stupendous, the change brought about by the new occupations and aims of women are scarcely less so, says a writer in Appleton's. Within the last twenty-five years—an astonishingly short period for so great a development—women emerging from the home, from the old conventional narrowness of spinsterhood and the uncertain conditions of dependence, whether happy or unhappy, have entered almost every field of activity once sacred to men. They demanded first higher education, and obtained it, so that in less than a generation an unheard-of thing became a commonplace. Somber, intense women of the early seventies made it in a few short years for any pink-cheeked child of 18 to enter college and take her curls and picture hats and airy graces with her, square waists and flat heels being no longer synonymous with a knowledge of Greek. After they had become trained in the higher branches the next step was easy. They entered the professions of medicine, of law, of architecture. They invaded newspaper offices and business offices; and there are now strong signs that they are invading politics, though it is probable that they are taking their femininity with them, according to the evidence of Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, who told in a speech at Cooper Union that the first remark made by one of her devoted hand, after she had been hustled into the Black Maria, was the immortal "Is my hat on straight?" As long as women still care for the proper tilt of their millinery, you may scratch a suffragette and find Eve.

NOT ALLOWED TO SMOKE.

The recent decree of M. Caillaux, the Minister of Finance, by which a traveller can only introduce into France ten cigars or twenty cigarettes, or forty grammes of tobacco, whichever he prefers, has, as might have been expected, aroused a great deal of comment. But the passage which has caused most surprise is that which forbids women and children to carry any form of tobacco at all. That children should be forbidden to carry tobacco for the benefit of their elders is all well and good, but why women should be forbidden to carry cigarettes when so many of them smoke is not so easily understood. In some cities in America women are not allowed to smoke in public, but there is no such restriction in France, where women do as they like in this matter, and often smoke in the trains. No doubt M. Caillaux's only idea was to protect the revenue, but he runs the

great danger of being considered prudish, which means ridicule and loss of authority. It is openly said in France that if M. Caillaux wants to improve the sales of the regie he should insist on the tobacco being made up without any admixture of saltpetre, which renders it bitter and unpalatable. If he would do so it would be a great boon to English smokers, who, being accustomed to the best tobacco in the world, find the French cigars and cigarettes very unpleasant smoking. But it is rather hard not to allow women to introduce even twenty cigarettes of some decent tobacco.—London Globe.

PIONEER CHAUFFEUR.

The Irish lady who has adopted the name "Miss Sheila O'Neill" and become the pioneer in London of a new occupation for women, appeared in the streets recently for the first time as a professional chauffeur, driving a green 12 horse-power car with a cape hood, which bore on the bonnet a doll policeman as mascot. "Miss Sheila O'Neill," who has been trained and brought out by Mr. A. R. Mills, proprietor of a motor garage in Little James street, W. C., is the daughter of a military officer. Before she took up motor driving she was a nurse on the staff of a London hospital. She also served for two years as a nurse in the South African war and went through the siege of Ladysmith. She obtained both the Queen's and the King's medals, and intends to wear them on her motoring coat. Her travels also include extensive excursions through India. She is one of the best women rifle shots in the country, and has won many prizes in open competitions. Interviewed after her first day as a chauffeur, "Miss O'Neill," who is a tall and handsome girl of about 25, with light-brown hair, said: "I began at 10 this morning, and have had a busy day. The roads were very greasy, but I had no 'skids.' I am already engaged for several short daily fares to take out ladies on their shopping excursions, and I have agreed to drive a doctor on his rounds for two hours every morning. I am not at all afraid of the weather. I think the profession of motor driving is a most suitable one in every way for women."—London Daily Mail.

WOMAN AND HER WAIST LINE.

After enduring the discomfort of a girle almost under her arms for a long time, woman is lengthening her waist again. The waist line has crept down little by little until now one notices a thought of absurdity in the true Empire gown, and the real position of the line is defined best by the Directory. It is to be expected fashion, soon or late, will go to the other extreme. Waists of great length will have a brief vogue following which the position of the belt will return to normal, or something like it. It is pretty certain the deeply pointed court, or Valois, corsage will vanish with the extremely long waist. Few points connected with woman's dress are of more importance than the position of the waist line. It can make or mar the grace of the figure. When it is too high it produces the stilted effect abhorred by portrait painters; if it is too low it can make an Aphrodite look duck-legged. Apparently the ordinary gown-builder has more difficulty in solving the problem of placing the waist line than in achieving any other detail in the making of a frock. Pity 'tis the average woman doesn't devote more thought to her own appearance in that respect.—New York Press.

MUST NOT DISENCHANT HUSBANDS.

Pointed advice to women of many degrees is contained in a little volume an Englishman has just published. Here are words of counsel to the average wife: "The successful wife is the one who strives to preserve feminine perfection as far as in her lies and to put off the hour of disenchantment; the one who appreciates the fact that it is a far more difficult matter to keep her husband a sweetheart than it was to transform a sweetheart into a husband. If a woman has to live with a man for the rest of her natural existence surely it is all the more reason why she should set to work to make herself more charming and more pleasing to him than to any one else; for it is very important to her happiness that she should outshine all other women in his eyes. Hers is the greatest gain in this respect. What severer strain can a man's love be subjected to than that of seeing his wife compare unfavorably with every other woman he meets? To see her dowdy and frumpy, ever troubled with the petty cares of domesticity; to return home in high good humor only to have his serenity shattered by a recital of her household disasters; what can be worse?"—New York Press.

We must save our roads, warns the New Haven Register. If nothing so far produced will serve, our investigators must keep up their quest until they find something.

Nearly one-third of all the children born in New York city die before they become 3 years old.