

RURAL TOPICS

POULTRY NOTES.

Metal troughs are better than wooden ones for breeding fashers. They are easily cleaned and may be scalded occasionally. Trouble comes from feeding mash in sour troughs. Fermentation takes place which causes sickness. A fresh, clean mash fed in a cleanly manded, seldom or never makes trouble.

Poultry must have vegetables in winter. Green stuff is just as important as grain.

Some cock birds are much more quarrelsome than others. Sometimes it is an advantage to get rid of the fighters.

In all successful poultry plants work is an important factor, the attendant's work and the fowl's work.

Better poultry in city markets would increase sales. Everybody likes poultry, but no one likes the appearance of a poor looking fowl on a market counter.

There is no such thing as luck in the poultry business. When something goes wrong there is a cause for it and the wise man will hunt out the cause and pull it out by the roots.

More eggs are being produced every year, but the market for fresh eggs has never been fully supplied. You can always buy eggs, but you can seldom buy good fresh eggs in a city market.

Watery eggs, sometimes called weak eggs, are caused by poor food—food that is deficient in the necessary elements to produce a good egg. Poor food not only reduces the quality, but the quantity. It pays to keep hens well supplied with good egg forming material and plenty of it.

Farmers seldom have eggs to sell in winter, in fact on some farms the hens don't lay enough for household use; and the reason is because the poultry is not kept right. Hens won't pick up all their living around the barn yard, roost on wagon wheels and lay eggs at the same time. They may be turned out in the yard for a little while during the warm part of the day to advantage, but they must have a warm house to sleep in and they must be taken care of and well fed both night and morning.

If the hens don't keep busy scratching, they don't develop an appetite sufficient to produce eggs. If hens are lazy it is generally the fault of the feeder.

Too much green bone, meat meal or meat scraps will work injury to fowls. A little clean meat scrap or fresh cut bone is all right and valuable, but too much is worse than none at all because it is likely to lead to disease.

WHEN BUYING A HORSE.

Never have a horse brought out or up or down to you, but go to his stall and investigate for yourself certain details, which once you know them require no special acumen to decide upon or to be aware of, writes F. M. Ware in the Outing Magazine. For instance, is there grain in the manger and the hour for feeding some time past? He may be a bad feeder, nervous, delicate—well to call the veterinarian's attention to this point. Is the straw under his fore feet unusually trampled or broken? May be one of those irritable, nervous "weavers" (horses which constantly sway from side to side) who are generally also bad feeders and poor property.

Are the stall posts or sides battered or kicked? He may be a kicker (by day or night, spilling his own rest and that of other horses). Does he tear or eat his blanket? Is he tied in any special way or simply and as other horses are? Is he gentle to approach and to handle—no nipping, kicking or pulling back on the halter?

Does he stand square on both fore feet or rest one or both alternately? Does he back quietly from the stall, picking up each hind leg without sudden spasmodic jerking? And when he turns in the gangway does he do so smoothly or does he flinch (in front) as if the boards were not even or his feet hurt him more or less? Are his eyes staring and expressionless, his ears always forward—indications of defective vision?

Once out of the stall, notice that he submits quietly to being wiped over and betrays no resentment while harnessing, at accepting the bit, bridle, crupper, etc., and decorously permitting all necessary alterations and attentions. Accept no departure from absolute docility of deportment, for be sure that if the animal betrays either excitability, nervousness or vice in the dealer's hands he will be far worse with you, for you know you don't know, and he will know you don't know, and those combinations spell trouble.

In the same way see that he is led out and put to the vehicle to which he is to be driven, noting each stage of the process, viewing him always with icily critical eye of the individual who does not (yet) own him. Excuse nothing and make no allowances for less. If he makes a move you don't fancy say so frankly and look further. There are plenty of horses.

SELECTING A BREEDING SOW.

A good deal is required of the sow. She is expected to furnish milk for from seven to ten pigs for several weeks and to turn them off in good thrifty condition so they will keep

growing after weaning without a set back.

It is a fairly safe rule to select a sow from a large litter that has turned out well, especially if the boar came from a similar family. It is reasonable certain that a sow is a good milker if she raises a goodly number of pigs and does it well. Her milking qualities may not be transmitted to her offspring but the chances are very much in her favor.

It is generally noticed that a sow pig taken from a large litter is more likely to produce large litters. It is a well established rule in breeding that like produces like. Of course, there are exceptions. There are so many exceptions that nothing in the breeding line is certain, but we are a great deal more likely to meet with success when we follow the rules than we are if we take unnecessary chances.

Generally a long bodied sow with an arched back, ribs long so she is deep through the body is likely to prove a satisfactory breeder. There are other requirements such as good legs, pasterns and plenty of bones without too much of a tendency to coarseness.

The finer points such as ears, shape of face, nose, hair etc., are less important; still they all mean something and each point should receive attention.

Farmers, as a usual thing, are not attempting to breed fancy stock for show purposes. But it does no harm to get as near to the show animal type as is consistent with one's capital. It is a mistake to follow a fad in breeding until it runs into more money than you are likely to get back, at the same time there is more profit in the show type of hogs, and you can get it out if you go after it in the right way.—H. A. Franklin.

STABLE VENTILATION.

Ventilation of stables is not generally well understood, but it is a subject of very great importance. It is said that the weight of air an animal takes into its lungs is greater than the weight of both food and water that the animal consumes.

An animal to be healthy must have pure air in abundance, but most stables have no good system of ventilation. What is meant by system in this connection, is some positive means for drawing the foul air out and replacing it with fresh air from outside.

Most stables are badly lighted with very small windows placed up somewhere near the ceiling. Too often a light or two of glass has been broken out and the place filled in with a board or stuffed with straw. Then, if the farmer is careless enough to leave decaying vegetables in the feed alleys, or if he feeds brewers' grains and permits the boxes and mangers to become sour, it is a dangerous place in which to house live stock.

During the past year, a great many investigations have been conducted to determine the cause of so much tuberculosis in dairy herds, and a great deal of the trouble has been traced directly to insufficient ventilation. A lot of cows are crowded into a stable and shut up to keep warm, without regard to consequences.—Epitomist.

THREATENED BY THE MOTH.

At a conference at the New York State Department of Agriculture, it was decided to send to each nurseryman of the State a letter of warning against the brown tail moth, which has been found in some importations of nursery seedlings recently arrived from France. The caterpillars have been identified by Professor Slingerland, of Cornell University; Professor Parrott, of the New York station, and State Entomologist Felt. This insect pest has not become established in New York, and nurserymen and orchardists who know of its depredations in Massachusetts will unite to repress it. The discovery of its presence having been made at this early date gives the inspectors of the Agricultural Department ample opportunity to examine all incoming stock and to attend to necessary fumigation, in which measures the nurserymen will co-operate.—Weekly Witness.

FEED SHEEP REGULARLY.

Sheep must be fed regularly both morning and night. The feeding troughs should be kept clean as sheep are more or less of a finicky nature and if their feed is thrown in the troughs on top of droppings it is sure to disgust them and a loss of appetite is noticed.—Farmers' Home Journal.

A variety of verses of improved quality have reached the Municipal Suffrage League of Chicago, in the \$100 prize contest offered for the best "battle hymn," to be used in the women's cause. A feature of the offering is a preponderance of women writers.

Prominent actors and musicians in Berlin have been engaged for the "shadow theatre" which will soon be opened in that city. It will be conducted, according to the prospectus that has been printed, as the Schatzenpieltheatre in Munich and a similar place of amusement in Paris.

"I've Shovelled the Money Out—How Shall I Get Out Myself?"



—Cartoon by W. A. Rogers, in the New York Herald.

Prisons Everywhere Are Overcrowded

More Criminals and Paupers Are Now Confined in State and County Institutions Than Ever Before—Hard Times and Undesirable Aliens Are Chiefly Blamed.

New York City.—Never before in the history of the State of New York have there been so many criminals behind prison bars as there are at present. The State prisons are overcrowded, the penitentiaries filled to overflowing and the workhouses so congested that the inmates are in each other's way.

Prison officials and criminologists assign two reasons for the crowded condition of the penal institutions—the hard times prevalent for the last two years and the influx of undesirable aliens to the big cities of the State. Unable to obtain work these men drift to crime and eventually land in prison.

Sing Sing Overcrowded.

There are more than 2600 convicts in Sing Sing Prison, originally built to house but 1600; the prisoners are doubled up in cells, lodged in out-houses and the chapels and some are said to sleep in the main office of the prison. In order to accommodate the horde of convicted men recently sent from this city—and they have been going in weekly batches of a score or more—Warden Frost has been compelled to place cots in the beautifully decorated Protestant and Catholic chapels.

A batch of sixty-five was transferred to Clinton Prison against the protest of the officials of that institution, who say they have no room to spare. Numbers of Sing Sing convicts—short term men—in order to make room for the new arrivals, are sent daily to the site of the new prison now being constructed on the west bank of the Hudson, near Iona Island, and kept there in shacks under the watch of keepers. These men are employed in the building of the new structure.

The same condition is reported by the warden of the penitentiary on Blackwell's Island. The census there recently showed 1119 men and eighty-three women in cells. This is far above the average census, and the rate at which the courts are sending prisoners there has alarmed the penitentiary officials. They are in a quandary where to confine the prisoners. As in Sing Sing, the problem of employing all the convicts is puzzling the officials of the penitentiary, and steps are being taken to put a number of them at work erecting new buildings on the various islands owned by the city and used for city purposes.

Reports from the Elmira Reformatory state that that institution is overcrowded, and transfers are being made daily to the up-State penal institutions in order to relieve the overcrowding.

Most of the Elmira recruits come from this city, and with the six Courts of General Sessions working daily the number of youths committed to the reformatory weekly from this county averages twenty-five. An average of ten a week are committed there from the Brooklyn criminal courts. A batch of seventeen was transferred from the Tombs recently to Elmira, making a total of 110 sentenced from this county during the month of March.

Workhouses Are Congested.

It is in the workhouses on Blackwell's, Hart's and Randall's Islands that the increase of poverty is apparent. Hundreds of prisoners—men and women—are housed in these institutions, all committed from the police courts of this city and Brooklyn, many of their own volition. The cen-

sus recently showed that in the workhouse on Blackwell's Island there were 1025 men and 579 women, serving terms ranging from five days to six months, all for trifling offenses.

In the Hart's Island institution there were 653 men and thirty-seven women, and at Riker's Island 262 males were housed. Besides, there are scores of prisoners committed to the workhouse who have been transferred to the different detention prisons scattered throughout the greater city to do the cleaning. According to the figures of the Commissioner of Correction obtained recently, there was a grand total of 3914 prisoners at present regularly committed to the workhouse.

From all over the State the same reports are received—crowded prisons, thickly tenanted workhouses and an ever increasing demand for admission to almshouses.

The overcrowded condition of penitentiaries and prisons in New York State is not peculiar to this State. Special dispatches subjoined indicate that similar conditions prevail in many other States. New York prison officials attributed it to two circumstances—the hard times and the influx of undesirable aliens.

Courts Less Lenient.

Boston.—Massachusetts County and State reformatory and prison institutions are crowded at the present time as they have not been for years. The authorities attribute this condition to the establishment of juvenile courts, leading to the arrest and conviction of many petty lawbreakers who heretofore have escaped with a reprimand. Besides, they say, the courts of late have in very many instances imposed sentences where previously they have put the accused on probation. The probation plan has not worked out as satisfactorily as it was hoped.

Hard Times Blamed.

Philadelphia.—For the last five years the penal institutions of Pennsylvania, both State and county, have been inadequate. The crowded conditions in the Eastern Penitentiary, in this city, were relieved somewhat a few days ago when a score of Federal prisoners were removed to the new Government prison at Atlanta. The hard times have been the cause for an increase in petty crime, but it is not believed that there is any greater proportion of alien criminals than formerly.

Maryland Like New York.

Baltimore, Md.—All the penal institutions of the State and city are more crowded than ever before with minor offenders. It is attributed by the officials largely to hard times and the presence of foreign undesirable. In a report to the Governor recently it was stated that while there are fewer cases due to the enforcement of the anti-cocaine law, there is a large increase in police court cases. The State penitentiary now has more inmates than it has had at any time within five years. One of the city police magistrates last week let off a number of petty offenders, saying he did not want to add just now to the number of prisoners who are crowding the city jail. The House of Correction is filled to overflowing with offenders committed from all parts of the State. Bay View Asylum, the city almshouse, is so packed with paupers, sane and insane, that vigorous protests are being made against the conditions prevailing there.

Kentucky Mobs Resist Collector and Governor Will Use Militia.

Frankfort, Ky.—On receipt of word from Tax Collector J. W. Peck that he has been prevented by mobs and organizations from collecting railroad taxes in the counties of Carter, Boyd and Elliott, Governor Wilson announced that he would use the State militia to assist the official.

The railroad taxes, which a number of the counties in the State owe, are heavy, and have been unpaid for many years. Trouble is anticipated when the troops enter the mountains.

African Explorer Sees Tame Hunting Ahead of Roosevelt.

New York City.—"Mr. Roosevelt, in my opinion, will find hunting in Africa like shooting cows in the backyard," said Dana Estes, publisher and traveler, from Boston, who arrived here after eight months spent on the other side of the world. "Of course, lions, tigers and other savage beasts will be met, but most of the other species appear to be comparatively tame," he added.

The HOME

AT WASHINGTON'S INAUGURATION.

As the wife of one of the Senators who composed the Committee of Arrangements at Washington's inauguration, Mrs. Ralph Izard was an important figure on that occasion. Griswold says of her:—

Mrs. Izard, of South Carolina, had been famous for her beauty and spirit, but was now past her prime, though not older than Mrs. Adams. She was the granddaughter of Etienne de Landi, a Huguenot nobleman who came to this country in 1686. In 1767 she married Ralph Izard, of Charleston, a man of accomplishments and liberal fortune, who had been educated at the University of Cambridge, and after returning to America had passed his winters in South Carolina and his summers in New York. Four years after his marriage he went to London, where he lived several winters in a brilliant society. Displeased with the conduct of the Ministry toward the Colonies, he visited the Continent, but becoming wearied of travel went back to London, where he exerted his influence to avert the approaching war without success, and in 1777 removed his family to Paris, and in a few months to Florence, being appointed Commissioner from Congress to the Grand Duke of Tuscany. His subsequent diplomatic services and his personal relations with Franklin, Deane and others cannot here be stated. He was always accompanied by his wife, who was very handsome, witty and fond of adventure. In London her portrait was painted by Gainsborough, and I was shown in Charleston, by her grandson, Mr. Manigault, one of Copley's finest pictures, a very large "family piece," representing Mr. and Mrs. Izard in a Roman palace, with a window in the background looking out on one of the most interesting parts of the Eternal City.

FIFTEENTH CENTURY FROCKS.

The dress of the Middle Ages has replaced the Directoire gown, but we can be fashionable without being drawn through a tube," said Abram Mayer, a Columbia University lecturer on clothes, who made an address in the Chic School of Design, No. 9 West Twenty-second street, last night. The lecturer illustrated his points by making a garment on a model. He said the French were the leaders of fashions and there was not much doubt they always would be, though there was a possibility the Americans would become leaders if they should develop more originality. Mayer asserted the fashions of Paris were brought to this country by ten leading importers, who were not in a trust because "they would like to eat one another." The garments they imported, he said, were put together in the flimsiest manner, but the style was all there. He said the Paris dressmakers were 1,000 miles ahead of the American. He attributed the supremacy of the French partly to the fact that the girls are taught there to sew when they are 6 years old, and are able to design their own dresses when they are 14. Mayer predicted the gowns for the coming season would be designed on the lines of those worn in the fifteenth century. He said all the lines in the garments would be long, with the fullness beginning at or below the hips. "That doesn't mean the waist line is down below the knees," he said. "It means lines are carried down to the knees. You can take a Directoire gown and run trimming from the shoulders down to the knees and finish it with a button at the end of the trimming, or if you choose, you may use a tassel. Slash the skirt, if it is big enough, and insert more trimming and you have an up-to-date gown."—New York Press.

DIAMONDS FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT.

A string of thirty-eight diamonds and an illuminated and embossed friendship book were presented to Mrs. Roosevelt as a token of the esteem of thirty-eight of her friends, prominent society women of Washington, D. C. The two gifts were taken to the White House by Miss May Williams and Mrs. Robert Hitt, wife of Representative Hitt of Pennsylvania, members of the committee which purchased them. They were not presented to Mrs. Roosevelt in person, but were handed to an attendant at the White House door. The names of the other donors have not been made public.

While the cost of the string of diamonds is unknown, some estimate of its value may be secured from the knowledge that the contributions ranged from \$50 to \$100 from each of the thirty-eight donors. The center gem weighs two carats and the other thirty-four are graduated down to the quarter carat diamonds at either side of the small clasp. The luminosity of the necklace is heightened by a platinum rim. The friendship book, measuring 8 to 10 inches, is bound in cream-colored calfskin, highly embossed and lined with moire silk. In the center of the cover Mrs. Roosevelt's monogram, "E. K. R." appears in gold.

The six pages are of vellum and on the first page a quotation from "Antony and Cleopatra" is traced: "Whose virtue and whose general

graces speak that which none else can utter." The book was designed by Miss Florence Pike, a teacher in the Arts and Crafts School.

VARIATIONS IN CALLING CARDS.

The size, shape and style of cards are slightly different this season. A thin, flexible pasteboard is used, so that a number of cards may be carried at once without undue bulk. A woman's card is almost, if not quite, square, while a man's is fully as long and of but half the depth. Old English lettering, either shaded or solid, Roman block type, or the old-fashioned script, are all in favor.

A married woman never uses her Christian or given name on her card; she always uses her husband's name, and that is spelled out in full.

Since a widow's name is identified with that of her husband she retains that same card after her widowhood.

The fashion for divorcees is to prefix their married name by that to which they were born, as Mrs. Jones Robinson, or Mrs. Mary Jones Robinson, it being understood that Jones is her maiden name.

On the lower right-hand corner of a woman's card goes the address, and now it is fashionable to have the residence number spelled out in full, even if two lines have to be used.

In the opposite corner is engraved the receiving day, or hours being mentioned, as it is understood that formal visits are received in the afternoon.

A man's card carries his name in full, prefixed by Mr., but it is not considered correct for a man to have professional degrees indicated on his calling cards used for social life only.

Where a girl has not yet been presented to society, her card reads with her full name, but without the prefix Miss.—New Haven Register.

FASHION NOTES.

Everything in evening gowns is clinging, high-waisted, if not directly empire.

New effects in net are a leading feature of the lace and trimming departments.

The skirt in sheath effect easily holds its own—if anything, it grows in favor.

Some of the new shantungs are accompanied by border material on a separate piece.

Any woman who has a collection of cameos would do well to have them set and mounted in a close-fitting necklace.

Jet is the most conspicuous thing among the new trimmings and it is being used in millinery to a great extent.

White net guimpes, soutached with the color of the gown, are the latest wrinkle for yokes, collars and sleeves.

Fashionable coats show many of the features that have been popular throughout the last season.

Many of the suits of wool and mohair fabrics will have natty little coats which open with one or two buttons and show much of the waist beneath.

For linen suits, and in fact for suits and frocks of all washable materials, the Irish crochet buttons promise a vogue such as they have never yet enjoyed.

An entirely new and novel garment is the stole made like a priest's vestment, whole at front and back, with panels falling straight, and with open sides and low neck.

Buttons are used in great abundance. Gray seems to be perennially popular.

Of metallic nets there is a wide supply.

Net promises to be used not only for yokes and sleeves, but for gowns and waists.

Foulards are shown in an unusually long range of patterns and colors for the spring.

Even lingerie waists of the most costly sort have adopted the little souchache braid.

Metallic gold fringe is used extensively on sashes, scarfs and even on tunic draperies.

GIRLS' CHILD LABOR EXPERTS.

The chances for a child labor law in Pennsylvania depend upon the devoted work of Miss Fanny Cochran, who was graduated from Bryn Mawr, and Miss Florence Sanville, a graduate of Bowdoin College. These young women have just reached Philadelphia from a practical visit to silk factories in scattered points. They worked in no fewer than sixteen silk factories, studying the child labor problem at first hand. Not once was their disguise penetrated, and they gathered information which is expected to guide the Pennsylvania Legislature in its deliberations on the Child Labor bill. The young women, from the result of their investigations, believe child labor to be one of the most pressing questions of the country, and they have resolved to give themselves exclusively in the future to agitation for the relief of every child from factory work and all forms of drudgery.—New York Press.

Watches were first constructed in 1476.