

The brakeman is a man who is employed by a railroad company to stand upon the top of a freight car and work both hands at the engine and to help stop the train when it is necessary.

Next to being a baraback rider in a man, so he can sit on the wheel of a brakeman, so he can sit on the wheel of a brake and chow tobacco while the train is running at full speed.

There are two kinds of brakemen—the passenger brakeman and the freight brakeman. The passenger brakeman is a gentleman of considerable leisure, and by the nonchalant way in which he comes through a car on the passenger's leg is often mistaken for the conductor.

He does not have much else to do but stand down, growl at the porter, and when the train arrives at a station yell "Phooah" when he should say "Post-tomah."

The freight brakeman is an entirely different man. He is grim, silent and dignified. He seldom speaks except to curse the green hands on the engine and the train, when his attention refers to a "pudging." Despite his faults, however, he works hard and very often serves to a position of importance, unless some day he tries to use his body as a cupping ring and falls.

At night when a freight train is sidetracked at a meeting point and his companions are squatted on a pile of crossties, the brakeman is in his glory. He roars out his opinions on the all-arms of the road and criticizes every one from the President down to the humblest official. He does not hesitate to say if the president can't run a road any better than he does he'll get off some where and drive a canal boat.

After he has said this and other things concerning the assembly of officials in general, he turns to one of his companions and says:

"Jimmie, did you ever know that fellow, Bill McGinty, who has just been appointed superintendent of the J. K. & C. P.?"

"What McGinty? Of course I've seen him, and you bet he's a fine old plum to be superintendent."

"Well, I should think he was. I was a brakeman on the southern division of the C. & N., when he got his first job—and Matt Johnson was pulling us—and McGinty was so good at driving a road head from a switch frog, no matter how slow old Matt Johnson backed up that fellow could couple a car, and sometimes for half an hour we were backing up, and going about nine miles an hour, and Matt Johnson drove for two miles off. I'll be blamed if I don't think he tried to kill McGinty. He used to come back and jam the draw-levers under the cars, but when he pulled around again McGinty would step out without a scratch or bump. A road, I tell you, is mighty hard up when they take such a thing as McGinty."

On the conclusion of such a speech the whole crowd of brakemen will review the history of McGinty, an old plumb, without a dissenting voice, will arrive at the conclusion that he is a "one of our boys." The brakeman is to be admired for the remarkable manner in which he gets wind of various and sundry plans which the management intend to place in operation and with to keep quiet.

The brakeman will set on the end of a cross-tie, swap opinions concerning the wisdom of the president in conceding such a plan long before the idea is divulged in the general office, obtain the merest inkling of it. If an appointment is to be made he will tell you the name of the man and the time the appointment is to go into effect.

Brother's Wife's Side. He wandered into the Mayor's office, and, walking slowly up to a desk, asked timidly if his Honor was engaged.

"What is your business, asked the clerk."

"Well, you see, I'd like to speak privately to the Mayor. It's a family affair."

"Relative to his Honor's?"

"No, it's not a family matter. A personal matter—you understand?"

"Well, he is engaged just at present. You are sure I will not do as well?"

"You might. That is, now; but I must see his Honor later. I—I want to get married," said the man, blushing to the roots of his hair, and intently studying his boots.

"Very well. Bring around the unfortunate female," said the clerk. "You don't expect to get married without having the bride on deck, do you?"

"Oh, no," said the visitor, "but I want to settle a question that's bothering me, first, I thought the Mayor might give me a little advice about it, and then if everything is all right I'll see him later."

"Well, suppose you make me your advisor, and see the Mayor when you have the girl along," said the clerk.

"But the Mayor is so good at giving advice," said the visitor, "assisting."

"Well, I guess you're right," said the clerk. "You see the girl I want to marry is a relative of mine."

"Very bad practice to marry relatives," said the clerk. "Apt to get left with a slightly bored of kins."

"That's what I'm afraid of," said the visitor. "But I think I hear of that girl. She's just my style down to her boots."

"I don't doubt it," said the clerk. "But I should strongly advise you to break off the engagement at once. I've heard terrible results following intermarriages in families. You may have a lot of children only to live out to the dime museum, or worse still, out and out lunatics."

"I've heard so," said the visitor. "But it's awful hard to give that girl up. You see I only met her a month ago, and we have been engaged three weeks at that."

"Only met her a month ago?" asked the clerk. "I thought you said she was a relative."

"So she is," said the visitor, "backing towards the door. 'She's my cousin on my brother's wife's side,' but he dodged the inkstand successfully and escaped.

TURNIPS as a FARM CROP.—Very few of the farmers in this country appreciate the value of turnips as a farm crop. Some chemists estimate them to contain ninety-five per cent. of water, leaving only five per cent. of flesh forming material; and that the small portion they contain is in position as was found to help fill up the stomach of an animal. I am not prepared to dispute the correctness of this analysis, but I do take issue with the conclusions that turnips have no greater value as food than may be indicated by the chemist's figures. Turnips have possibly a mechanical value, as they may aid in the digestion of more concentrated food, such as corn meal, when fed with it. Perhaps the fact is to be found in the fact that the 95 per cent. of water is put down as worthless. In the economy of nature this very water may prove of more importance than has been ascribed to it. I have found that raw turnips will not only sustain life, but cause logs to thrive when fed nothing else. I do not mean that they feed a large quantity, but an amount, which according to the chemist's tables would be a small per cent. of the actual food that turnips would be expected to supply, and cattle will fatten on them, with very little hay. The credit cannot be put down to the hay, but must be carried over to the turnips. If I understand the British system of raising mutton, it is mainly, and sometimes entirely, by the use of turnips. The sheep are confined by hurdles on the turnips, where they help themselves, until the crop within the inclosure is exhausted, when they are moved to a fresh lot. Knowing the real value of turnips, and how easily they may be converted into meat, why should not the American farmer avail himself of the opportunity, and not rely so exclusively upon corn? Every farmer should have a turnip patch, the larger the better. The crop can always be made supplementary to another on the farm, and is so much cheap grain.

We have made the projecting wood-work of his stall distasteful to a mostly idle gnawing horse by painting it once or twice with coal tar. A correspondent of the Farmer's Advocate says one thorough salter with kerens, "produced a permanent cure." and the same writer, his substitution with the destructive tooth of the restless animal. This is less costly and troublesome than the cover of sheet iron, or use of the muzzle, usually recommended for such cases.

FARMERS, for self improvement, need to awake to their responsibility as men; they need cultivation, interests, care, order and zeal for the welfare of their fellow beings. The intellectual faculties, the emotional affections, and desires, the will, that constitute immortality, must be honored as the broadest and highest of man as man. A farmer must not be a machine.

The close housing of sheep is about in order, and many shepherds, who are careful not to expose their flocks to the rains and snow are doing something which is perhaps a permanent cure, and the same writer, his substitution with the destructive tooth of the restless animal. This is less costly and troublesome than the cover of sheet iron, or use of the muzzle, usually recommended for such cases.

The Baldwin among apples, the Bartlett and Duchess among pears and the Wilson among cherries have for twenty years or more held first place in the fruit lists of the North for profit. Their hardness as of nature productivity give them this pre-eminence. There are better fruits in their several classes than either of these, but it remains to be seen whether they possess the other qualifications for popularity.

The peachbloss potato, in the limited proportion that this kind is now planted, has been unusually successful this season. The writer in New York State, particularly for nearly every other kind, has been suited to the peachbloss. While other potatoes dried up and died in the summer drought, the peachbloss held on and has ready to make a growth of tubers after fall rains came.

The average of analyses that we have seen, do not show milk from Jersey cows to be poorer in cheesy matter (casein) than that from other milk. It is simply richer in cream. Only 8 per cent. of it are required to make a pound of cheese, when it requires ten pounds from other cows—so much does the excess of cream count in the weight of cheese. This has been proved at the factories.

VEGETABLES, like grain, seem to pass through a sweating process when placed in a heap, which guides those steering them in large quantities to be careful of the temperature of the air and moisture in which they are kept. They need not only a temperate suitable, but also more or less ventilation in the heap.

In measuring fruit trees the cherry should receive a higher application than most other kinds, as it is benefited by most stable manure, but can be top dressed with ashes or anything containing potash, almost without stint. All stone fruits, especially those that are seed, need liberal doses of potash.

OLSON COUNTY, N. Y., farmers say that the cow has been more profitable with them than the last horse. A very few fast trotters have brought much money into the hands of the farmer, but they are not hand buyers rather than growers of the stock. The good dairy cow brought her income into the pocket of the farmer.

The Richmond, Va., Southern Planter says that it can be declared off-hand applicable to a special soil. Strictly speaking, each particular case demands a new analysis. One field may produce a force five times more nutritive than another.

A NEW white potato called Duke of Albany is becoming very popular in England; but the rule does not work both ways, as Americans who have planted imported seed have found to their cost.

POWERS need grave, oyster shells and some green food. When in confinement these substances should not be overlooked. A head of cabbage, or an onion or two will always be highly relished.

Southern Blueberry.—Two cups of self-rising flour, one spoonful of lard; mix with water and knead to a stiff dough, and at this price it will pay all expenses of the crop. It weighs nearly or quite six pounds per bushel.

Soft shells are caused by a deficiency of lime. Oyster shells are composed of carbonate of lime, and serve as "grit" in grinding the food as well as for material for forming the shell.

Stop the cracks and holes in the stables, whether made of boards or straw, and pave your animals and money for yourself.

Shop Windows.—A prominent German paper recommends a remedy for an evil which shopkeepers and housekeepers have long experienced—namely, the fading or bleaching of many kinds of colored articles when exposed to the light through windows. The authority quoted says that this fading or bleaching is brought about only by the white rays of the sun's light, and when it occurs, it shows that the glass is more or less perfectly colorless. It is simply a question of the color of the glass. The window panes consist of glass which is slightly yellow, the bleaching or fading process is prevented. Where the glass is colorless and cannot be replaced by slightly yellow tinted glass, the desired effect may be attained by simply giving the panes a coat of copal varnish.

THOUGHTS KNOWING—Golds and silver are now prevailing to a very wide extent, particularly on a certain young journalist. One morning the pair started out for a long ramble over in the Contra Costa hills. Being gone all day they returned in the evening completely exhausted and fatigued. The young lady and gentleman were met by a party of their friends soon after their return, and were asked as to what kind of a time they had. Now, the young lady has a very unhandy habit of speaking very assertively, she may make by applying to any friend that she happens to have with her at the time. So, as usual, away she went, and answered the inquiry as follows: "Oh, we had a fine time. But climbing over hills and through woods was no black and blue all over, but it was, George?" (appealing to the young man who had gone out with her). George said emphatically that he'd be hanged if he knew anything about it, and now that young man was at rest from the chaffing of their friends.

Mr. ISAACS and Mr. Blumenthal kept rival clothing stores on the Bowery, within a few doors of each other. Mr. Isaacs was always to be seen with his head out of the door, soliciting custom from the verandah passer-by. Mr. Blumenthal objected to this shabby manner of doing business, having found that the rival Isaacs had captured several of his customers, and one day went up to Isaacs and said: "Look here, Mr. Isaacs, you don't keep your ugly face in view? You might pester just a jakes, to stand by to door. He would be a pig in the street, and I don't know if I did try to do, and all day we would be just as you see him: 'Good day, Mr. Blumenthal; I see you've moved.'"

A MATTER of selection: Charles Lever told of an Arkanian man, who, while on a stage coach was passing over a creek, cried out: "What's this for?" We know of an Arkanian man who was equally self-possessed. While standing in a saloon, where a party of convivialists had gathered, a pistol belonging to one of the party was accidentally discharged. The Arkanian man felt, shot through the body. "Blamed if I understand this!" he exclaimed. "Why the devil that pistol should select me when other men are present is beyond my mental resources."

POTENTIAL: "Oh, Mr. Jones," exclaimed Miss Linnæus, "I heard you talking to a boy about plants, and I do so want to talk to you, for you know, I think, more about plants than I do. Mr. Jones, but what varieties of plants are you particularly interested in?" "The plants which I am most interested in," replied Mr. Jones, with a certain gravity, "are the plants which will admit of my carrying out a great scheme of mine. I have been thinking of the right thing for my difficulty. It went out humorously, but I have not done it. The case of the matter I had entered, and I found it was a mere trifling affair. I had a man's name as a name, and my appetite was not so good as I had hoped. I saw a radical cure, and I have been thinking of it ever since. I have been thinking of it ever since. I have been thinking of it ever since."

Some important statistics: At the last meeting of the Lime-Kiln Club the committee on fisheries reported the close of the season and were discharged. The chairman submitted the following statistics: Number of persons who went fishing on Sunday during the last fiscal year, 806,451; number of fish caught by said wicker sinners, 250; number of fish sold in the last year, 6,980,000; number of fish sold in the last year, 6,980,000; number of fish sold in the last year, 6,980,000.

EMBROIDERY ON VELVET.—The finest embroidery upon velvet is applique work. The pattern is cut out in the material, which has first been backed with a coarse line, and stretched on a frame. The design is then cut out, and cut out or pasted upon a silk foundation, and are outlined by laying two lines of gold thread or purple silk round the edges, and securing them as in ordinary embroidery. The design is then put in a kettle of boiling water, and a plate at the bottom. Keep boiling constantly until done.

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MAKING CORN BREAD. This depends upon the kind of corn. If it is stale the bread will necessarily be nutty and unfit for use. The meal used at the South is always freshly ground, from "dint corn," which corn is planted expressly for the purpose of being used for making bread and meal. It is very white and sweet, and a great improvement on the "Indian meal," which most cooks use for corn-bread.

MILK DRESSING.—This may be made in this manner. The milk should be scalded and then cooled, as this keeps the cream from separating. The more bread is kneaded the better, but it is not so smooth. Use no more than a dust of flour on the board, as much flour worked in that has not been impregnated with the yeast makes the bread dry and tough.

BREAKFAST WAFFLES.—After breakfast stir the batter about the consistency of soft putty and add a little salt. Set it aside. The next morning thin it with milk and add two eggs, beaten well. Stir in flour enough to make the right consistency, and bake in waffle-irons.

What a Deer Sees and Hears. When a deer is much hunted his ears become exceedingly acute. Mr. Van Dyke has seen one spring from his bed and run away at a race horse speed before he was within 200 yards of the animal, although he had not touched a single limb or twig in approaching the game, and although he was positive that a man could not be twenty yards' distance have heard the soft tread of moccasins on the light snow. Deer, like man, are much affected by sensitive correctness the distance and character of sounds. They will often lie all day when hearing of the normal sounds of the woodman's ax and the shouts of the teamsters. Even the faintest of a squirrel's jump, the roar of thunder, the rattling of trees with frost, their creaking or falling in the wind, does not alarm them in the least. Yet the faintest pressing of the leaves beneath the hunter's moccasin has been touched, and seen flying, and can also see a long way. On one occasion Mr. Van Dyke saw one watching a brother sportsman nearly a mile a mile away, whose motions he could hardly himself make out. It is true that for recognition an object at rest the eyes of a deer are about as dull as those of a dog. If alarmed he will not distinguish a man from a stump on open ground, if the man is seated and perfectly motionless. On the other hand, to catch a motion, a deer's eyes are marvellously quick, and the fact that he is generally at rest while the hunter is moving gives him an immense advantage. In the act of following your head up a ridge, or that of a deer, his limbs over the trunks of trees, or the slow advance of your creeping body along the ground, is almost instantly detected, unless the motion happens to be made while he has touched their heads down, feeding or walking.

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