

THE OPTIMISM OF NATURE.

JAMES M'ARTHER.
Ah, what do the loons waver say.
In their low surge-sob on the beach—
We kiss the shore as we may.

THE WARDEN'S RECRUIT

A TRUE STORY.
By John Dickinson Sherman.

IN Pekin, upholding the dignity of the Stars and Stripes, there is a young United States marine with an unusual history. The warden of a State penitentiary is willing to guarantee that the young marine will serve his country faithfully and well.

dress a long breath of relief to see that it was postmarked in Annapolis, Maryland, but he was not prepared for the news that it contained.
'I have enlisted in the United States marines. I may never be an officer, but I am going to try and be a good soldier. Yours, William Simmons.'

AGRICULTURAL

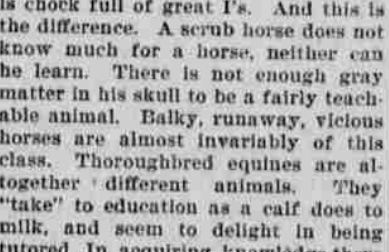
Feed Lightly in the Warm Season.
During the summer months fowls should not be overfed; that is, they should not be given more than one-half the amount of food which they ordinarily would get during the fall and winter months.

'Cut Under' For Hay Rack.
To give the forewheels a chance to 'cut under' the rack slides, use the device shown in the cut.



Intelligent Animals or Scrubs?
There is just as much difference between the intelligence of blooded animals and scrubs as there is between the intelligence of educated and uneducated persons.

Utilizing Roof Water.
On many farms the watering of the stock involves not a little hardship both to the owner and to his stock.



Intelligent Swine Feeding.
There is quite a revolution going on in swine feeding, which must not only have a beneficial effect upon the health of the animals, but upon the quality of the pork.

Monkey and Sugar Cane.
Some years ago, when in charge of the Mauritius Government railways, trains of sugar canes, loaded in open-sided trucks, were worked over a section of the line from the plantations to the usine centrale, some miles distant.

A Victor Hugo Museum.
Thanks mainly to the munificence of M. Paul Meurice, says the Westminster Gazette, Paris is about to be provided with a Victor Hugo Museum.

Grubs and Cutworms.
The eggs that hatch out white grubs are laid by the May beetle, which usually does not come till about June with us.

Abandoned Trip.
The proposed transcontinental automobile trip inaugurated by the Cleveland Plaindealer has been abandoned, owing to the impossible feat of driving the machine through the sand drifts of the Sahara of America.

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Making Butter at Home.
'I enjoy making my own butter,' a lady said to me the other day. 'I know it is considered quite the thing nowadays to send the milk away to get rid of the care and work of making it up.

'Through the failure of the Government in the original surveys of the public lands to lay out a scientific system of roads, and divide the lands accordingly, farmers have been left to lay out the roads for themselves, and generally they have put them on farm lines, going over all the hills that come in their way.

'The amount of hill tax I have estimated in one county in New Jersey, and found that needless hills double all the cost of hauling in the county, making practically a money tax of \$10,000 annually to the township.

'However, the farmers themselves are doing away in many places with the enormous burden of the fence tax, and with it will go the snowdrift tax and the waste land on the roadside.

Monday—Had to dig bait for dad to go fishing. He fished all day, and two men brought him home 'bout supper time.

Tuesday—Club a tree to get a bird's nest, an' fell out of the tree on to the back of a mule that was grazi' under it. The mule didn't like that, an' I threw me up into the tree again.

Wednesday—Proposed to Jimmie Johnson's sister. Asked her to fly with me. Her mother heard me, an' give me such a lickin' with a single that I flew by myself, an' don't feel tired enough to sit down to-day.

Thursday—Fell into a molasses barrel, which wuz only half full. Though we all have our Troubles and Sorrows, I must say that life is Sweet to me.

Friday—A barbecue was given to the Sunday school Children yesterday. We all had more than we could eat and carry away. It is good to belong to a Sunday school.

Saturday—The new preacher come to spend Sunday with us. At breakfast he ate seven biscuits, one beef-steak, an' a fried chicken, an' drank 4 cups of coffee. He asked me if I didn't want to be an angel? I told him that if he stay long, an' his appetite held out, I'd have to be one—Atlanta Constitution.

The Cat Goddess.
In old Egypt there was a burial place for sacred cats as well as for sacred bulls. A cemetery of cats existed near Bubastis. A few years ago Monsieur Naville found buried in the mound the ruined temple of Bast or Pasht, the cat goddess, who gave her name to the city.

The Crusade in Kentucky.
The women of Kentucky are evincing much interest in the good roads movement. Fully one-half of the 2000 persons present at a convention at Hopkinsville to advocate road improvement the other day were women.

In Oxfordshire, England, the superstition prevails that the arrival of a German band in a village portends rain.



GOOD ROADS

GENERAL ROY STONE said recently in a speech at Parkersburg, W. Va.: 'Among the taxes which the farmers pay are some that are unavoidable, and these it is useless to talk about.

'The mud tax is probably about equal in total to the hill tax, and this, again, doubles the cost of all wagon transportation; yet many farmers are opposed to stone roads.

'The estimate of your able secretary that \$800,000,000 is wasted annually in this country through bad roads is supported by that of other statisticians, and from this it appears that the tax they impose takes one-quarter of the whole value of all farm products in the United States.

'The foundation of Bubastis carries us back to the period of the building of the great Egyptian pyramids. The Bubastis of the Egyptians is the same as the Artemis of the Greeks, who is generally said to be the same as the Diana of the Romans, a goddess of light, representing the moon.

Ovid calls the cat the sister of the moon, and says that Pasht took the form of a cat to avoid Typhon. According to Plutarch, a cat placed in a lustrum denoted the moon. It is stated by some writers that the 'cat' was an intercalary month, added in the one hundred and twentieth year to rectify the calendar.

Millet had hardly been dead ten years when from one hemisphere to the other both the French peasants and the American cowboys nailed up the 'Angels' over their heads as a holy image. It is said that when Millet had finished that picture he showed it first to a peasant, one of his neighbors at Barbizon. The latter gazed long and silently at the two humble laborers, pausing with bowed heads over their furrows, in the midst of their work; and as Millet, by look and gesture, questioned him, and awaited his opinion, the worthy fellow said: 'The bells are ringing, are they not, sir? We don't see them, but they hear them.' 'Come,' said Millet, 'that is all right. I see I have made myself understood.'—Pall Mall Gazette.

LIVE-WIRE FISHING.

Every Fish That Gets Within Ten Feet of the Net is Caught.
It is 'positively shocking' the way they are catching fish at the plant of the St. Anthony Falls Water Power Company. This, too, in face of a large sign which is inscribed in plain letters: 'No Fishing Allowed; Keep Off.'

The electricians have become so used to working wonders by electricity—such a miracle, for instance, as running the street railways of two cities without scarcely having to turn a hand themselves—that they are in the habit of calling the mysterious fluid to their assistance whenever it is convenient to do so.

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COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

New York (Special).—R. G. Dun & Co.'s 'Weekly Review of Trade' says: 'Continued favorable weather conditions have resulted in the saving of much late-planted corn, and in the Northwest ideal weather for spring wheat harvest has been enjoyed.

'Official returns of pig iron production in the first half of the year show a record-breaking aggregate of 7,674,713 tons, exceeding the remarkable output of the previous year by 23,044 tons.

'Violent fluctuations have marked the course of corn prices. The top point of the previous week was not regained, but traders on the short side of the market were compelled to cover at a loss.

'Bradstreet's says: 'Business failures in the United States for the week were 166, as against 199 last week, 170 this week a year ago, 156 in 1890, 169 in 1898 and 214 in 1897.'

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Flour—Best Patent, \$4.45; High Grade Extra, \$3.95; Minnesota bakers, \$2.00; 10.
Wheat—New York, No. 2, red, 70 1/2c; Philadelphia, No. 2, red, 71 1/2c; Baltimore, 65 1/2c.
Corn—New York, No. 2, 61c; Philadelphia, No. 2, 59 1/2c; Baltimore, No. 2, 60 1/2c.
Oats—New York, No. 2, 42c; Philadelphia, No. 2, white, 45c; Baltimore, No. 2, white, 43 1/2c.
Rye—New York, No. 2, 50 1/2c; Philadelphia, No. 2, 50c; Baltimore, No. 2, 53c.
Green Fruits and Vegetables—Apples, per bbl. fancy, \$2.00; do. per bbl. common, small, \$1.00; do. per bbl. bunch, 1 1/2c. Blackberries, per quart, Rochelle, 45c. Cabbage, native, per 100, flat Dutch, \$2.00; do. Cantaloupes, Anne Arundel, per basket, 30c. Carrots, native, per bunch, 1 1/2c. Corn, per bushel, 58c. Cucumbers, per peck basket, 15c. Currants, New York, per 8-bb basket, 15c. Egg plants, per basket, 65c. Huckleberries, per quart, 67c. Onions, per 1/2-bbl basket, 60c; do. per full bbl, \$1.00; do. Peaches, Maryland and Virginia, per box, ordinary, 25c; Georgia, per 6-bbl. basket, 30c. Water melons, per 100, select, \$18.00; do. do. per 100, primes, \$12.00.
Potatoes—White, new, Norfolk, per barrel, No. 1, \$3.25; do. do. Norfolk, per barrel, No. 2, \$2.00; do. do. Eastern Shore Maryland, per bbl, \$2.50; do. do. Eastern Shore Virginia, per bbl, \$2.50; do. do. native, per bushel box, \$1.50; do. do. new, North Carolina, per bbl, \$4.00; do. do. Eastern Shore Virginia, per bbl, \$4.00.
Provisions—Bacon shoulders, 8 1/2c; do short ribs, 9 1/2c; do clear sides, 9 1/2c; do clear ribs, 10 1/2c; do clear sides, 10 1/2c; Bacon shoulders, 9 1/2c. Fat backs, 8 1/2c. Sugar cured breasts, 13 1/2c; Sugar cured shoulders, 9 1/2c. Hams—Small, 13 1/2c; large, 13c; smoked skinned hams, 13 1/2c; picnic hams, 9 1/2c. Lard—Beehived, refined, pure, in tierces, 9 1/2c; in tubs, 9 1/2c per lb. Mess pork, per bbl, \$16.00.
Live Poultry—Hens, 12c; old roosters, each, 25c; spring chickens, 12c; ducks, 7c; spring ducks, 8c.
Hides—Heavy steers, association and salters, late kill, 60 lbs and up, close selection, 10c; cows and light steers, 9c.
Eggs—Western Maryland and Pennsylvania, per dozen, 21c; Eastern Shore, Maryland and Virginia, per dozen, 21c; Virginia, per dozen, 12 1/2c; Western and West Virginia, per dozen, 12 1/2c; Southern, per dozen, 12c.
Butter—Elgin, 21c; separator, extras, 20 1/2c; do. firsts, 19 1/2c; do. gathered cream, 19c; do. imitation, 17 1/2c; lardie extra, 15 1/2c; lardie, first, 14 1/2c; choice Western rolls, 15c; fair to good, 12 1/2c; half-pound creamery, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, 21c; do. large, 2-lb, do. 20c.
Cheese—New cheese, large, 60 lbs, 10 1/2c; do. flats, 37 lbs, 10 1/2c; picnics, 23 lbs, 11 1/2c.
Live Stock.
Chicago—Good to prime steers \$5.50 to \$6.50; poor to medium \$4.00 to \$5.00; stockers and feeders, \$2.50 to \$4.00; cows \$2.75 to \$4.50; heifers \$2.50 to \$4.00; bulls \$2.50 to \$4.00; calves, \$3.00 to \$5.00. Hogs, mixed and butchers \$5.00 to \$5.50; good to choice heavy \$5.50 to \$6.00. Sheep, choice wethers \$7.50 to \$8.50; fair to choice mixed \$5.50 to \$6.50; Western sheep \$3.25 to \$3.85; yearlings \$4.00 to \$4.50; native lambs \$2.50 to \$3.50; Western lamb \$4.35 to \$4.50.
East Liberty—Cattle steady; extra 5.00 to 5.75; prime \$4.00 to 5.00; good \$3.00 to 4.50. Hogs about steady; prime heavy \$6.00 to 6.50; assorted mediums \$5.00; best heavy Yorkers \$5.50 to 6.00; light do. \$5.00 to 5.50; pigs 5.00 to 5.50; skips \$4.50 to 5.00; roughs \$3.50 to 4.50. Sheep steady on best grades; best wethers \$4.00 to 4.50; culls and common \$3.00 to 3.50; yearlings \$3.00 to 3.50; veal calves \$3.50 to 4.00.
LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Bombay has twenty cotton mills.
Oklahoma's wheat crop is 30,000,000 bushels.
The world's ships are worth \$394,000,000.
Sioux Falls has a book that weighs 181 pounds.
Beumont, Tex., has telegraph poles 180 feet high.
A New York factory makes 30,000,000 cigarettes per week.
Philadelphia unionists will establish a co-operative laundry.
Russian express trains do not run faster than twenty-two miles an hour.
The Penryn slate quarries in Scotland, largest in the world, employ over 3,000 men.
The wages of members of the Chicago Seamen's Union have been increased 25 cents a day.
The Austrian government has passed a law for the legal limitation of the hours of labor of coal miners to nine per day.
An ordinance has been adopted by the town council of Yorkville, S. C., making it a misdemeanor for any person to be seen staggering on the streets of that town.