

TIMELY HINTS FOR FARMERS

Shoeing the Farm Horse.

Regarding the length of time shoes should be left on the horse without refitting them, one must be guided largely by circumstances. From four to six weeks is the safest period, and eight weeks should be the extreme limit. Leaving shoes on horses too long is apt to result in dangerous hoof troubles or a permanent deformity of the foot, as the shoe prevents a normal growth of the hoof. Some horses require more frequent fitting of shoes than others on account of the rapidity of growth. Hoofs are not so liable to rapid growth during winter as in summer. A young horse that is still growing will require much closer attention in this respect than older horses and may have a hoof ruined a great deal sooner through neglect or inefficient shoeing.

Dry Quarters For Poultry.

Keeping poultry dry is of more importance than keeping them warm. If they are dry they will be comfortable. For this reason the henhouse roof should be tight to exclude all rains. The same principle applies to the poultry grounds. They should be well drained and dry for health in summer and comfort in winter. The hen that must tramp in the water and mud in winter with wet and cold feet will not thrive and lay.

Duroc-Jersey Hogs.

The more the Duroc or Red Jersey hogs become known the more popular they seem to be. They are long and rangy and at the same time well rounded out, with good hams and shoulders; quiet enough to make good mothers, prolific, growing well and fattening well, though perhaps not as rapidly as the small Yorkshires, but having a larger proportion of lean meat.

Horses Not Naturally Vicious.

A man who has been in the habit of buying vicious horses when he can buy them cheaply and by proper handling makes good horses of them says that no horse ever was born balky, but may be made so by the driver.

Comfort For Cattle.

Plenty of straw scattered in the sheltered and sunny part of the barnyard will be appreciated by the cattle during the time they are out for exercise. It will also be a splendid place to feed the hens.

GIVE THE RUNT PIG A FAIR CHANCE.

With Proper Care It Can Be Made a Profitable Porker.

It is often advised to kill the runt pig on sight, and perhaps this is the best plan for the large hog grower, but in this time of insufficient supply and consequent high prices for hogs I am of the opinion that it is far better to give the runt a chance to grow into a hog. There are some runts that will never prove profitable, but a pig of good breeding will usually grow out and make a good hog, writes A. J. Legg in the American Agriculturist.

Last spring there was one pig in a litter of my Chester Whites that was not half as large as the best pigs of the litter. Some would have advised killing it, but I let it go with the rest, and at weaning time it was nearly as large as any of them. The man I sold a part of them to at weaning time did not object to paying the same price for it that he did for the others. Once I put a runt pig of a litter of eight full blood Chester White pigs by itself and fed it separately from them. At eight weeks old it weighed twenty pounds, while its mates were one-third larger. I slaughtered this pig at seven and a half months old, and it dressed 197 pounds.

If there is a scarcity of pigs it will usually pay to give the runt a little extra chance. A moderate ration of middlings or some other good feed will soon show whether there is anything of value in the runt pig.

Treatment For Worms in Hogs.

Every morning for five successive days a week for two weeks dissolve in a slop half a pound of dried sulphate of iron (coppers) for each hundred pigs. Clean up, disinfect and whitewash the pens. See that the hogs get pure drinking water and are kept away from old contaminated ponds and wallows. The iron cannot safely be given to pregnant sows.

Best to Sort the Eggs.

Sort your eggs unless there are only a few of them. If you have many chickens keep the big, well shaped ones, the tinted ones and the small ones together. It destroys unfavorable contrasts, and they sell to better advantage. This is highly important if you want to work up a private sale for your eggs.

Worth of Warm Quarters Apparent.

The fact that hogs always make more rapid gains during the summer and fall months than in the winter ought to prove the wisdom of providing warm, dry quarters in cold weather.

HOW SNAKES HUNT.

The Idea That They Exert a Hypnotic Influence Exploded.

Many are the tales told of how snakes of various kinds exert a hypnotic influence over their prey. A naturalist now denies this, as the result of some experiments.

He shut a number of rattlesnakes up in a barn, and then introduced rats and birds for the reptiles to feed upon.

The rats were very restless, but this he puts down as a desire to escape rather than the dread of danger. Sometimes, however, they would run straight into the heaps of straw where the snake lay concealed.

When a rattlesnake wanted to catch a bird it would silently approach its victim, poised for a moment, make a snap like dart, and then in a leisurely manner retire.

In that sudden dart it had ejected its poison into the bird, which then fluttered and staggered about in an aimless fashion. Presently its movements became more dazed. The end had come.

Then the snake quietly seized it and bore it off to the heap of straw to be consumed at leisure.

Hypnotism did not play the slightest part in this or any similar capture which the naturalist watched.—Answers.

Long Honey moon.

Marriage among Moslems in India is followed by other ceremonies. The bride with the bridegroom is taken back to her father's house after four days, then again she comes back to her husband's house after ten days' stay, and then after a stay of twenty days returns to her father's house for at least six months. Thus instead of having a short period of honeymoon they make it last almost a year.—Near East.

A Jury of Women.

A Colorado woman ordered a dress and then refused to pay for it on the ground that it did not fit her. The dressmaker brought suit for the recovery of the amount, and the defendant evidently suffering from a momentary attack of mental aberration, demanded a jury of women. Of course, she lost her case.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Mind and Matter.

The power of ideas in producing and dissipating functional troubles is being more and more realized, and thus the treatment of such maladies is being attacked by the psychological route already long trodden deviously by the patent medicine vendor and mesmerist.—Hospital.

Belgian Fowls.

The Belgians have a breed of fowls the feet of which they have shortened in order to lessen their powers of doing damage by scratching in gardens. They have another variety which have been denuded of tail feathers, that they may have a better chance of escaping from foxes.

A Curious Coincidence.

It is a curious coincidence that Canada's greatest railroad man, Sir William Van Horn, is a native of the United States, and that the greatest railroad builder of the United States, James J. Hill, is a native of the Dominion.

Secrets.

Here is an excellent rule to follow: Don't swap secrets. Never trust anyone with a secret who communicates one to you. If you do you may calculate upon yours being divulged to some other person.

Long Time Underground.

Electric haulage has supplanted animal power in Comstock lode and 12 of the miles which were brought to the surface had not seen daylight for 20 years.

High Priced Peaches.

A commission agent in the Paris fruit markets recently shipped a basket containing 63 selected peaches to London. The price for the lot was \$540, or about \$9 each.

The Telephone.

If all the bell telephones made each year were blended into a single instrument it would be nearly 300 miles high and weigh 4,000 tons.

Phonograph in Schools.

In some Viennese schools a phonograph which repeats speeches as recited by eminent actors has been introduced in order to teach the pupils declamation.

The Sailors Tobacco.

Three hundred tons of tobacco are distributed annually among the sailors of the British navy. It is sold to them at cost.

Postal Service in the Desert.

A new monthly postal service across the Sahara has just been established. The messengers are mounted on camels.

A Big Sawmill.

Louisiana has a steel sawmill with a capacity of 600,000 feet a day, which is said to be the largest in the country.

When terrified the ostrich will travel 25 miles an hour.

The Philippines have about 200 miles of railroads.

HUMOR OF THE DAY NEW TALES THAT ARE TOLD

Anecdotes of Eminent Persons.

(In accordance with the prevailing style.)

Good One on Mr. McKetchem.

Artistic and literary circles are in a high state of amusement over an ex-cruciatingly funny story related of Mr. J. T. McKetchem, the distinguished artist, author, traveler and African hunter. It seems that in company with a friend he was lunching the other day at a high class restaurant. Said his friend, looking at the checks the waiter had brought: "Four dollars for a little spread like this! That's the most outrageous, the most exasperating charge I ever saw!" "That shows," instantly retorted Mr. McKetchem, with a smile, "that you never saw the charge of an infuriated rhinoceros."

One on Alderman Miriam.

An exceedingly droll story is told concerning a certain Alderman Miriam, whose name has been mentioned more or less in connection with the majority of a city which shall be nameless. "Charley," said one of his friends, to whom he had handed a cigar, "you shouldn't carry as fine a brand of smokes as this when you are out late at night." "Why not?" he demanded. "Because," rejoined the other, "some footpad might hold you up." "Hold me up!" he exclaimed. "How can anybody hold me up when I am already in the hands of my friends?" "This was too good to keep, and it leaked out.—Chicago Tribune.

A Retired Star.

A negress, very fat and well along in years, sauntered into the lobby of a Broadway theater the other day and asked for the manager. "What can I do for you, mammy?" asked the manager. "I want a ticket into the gallery, boss," she replied calmly. "But why should I give you a ticket?" "Cos I'm a retired actress." "You? What did you do?" inquired the other in amusement. "I played in 'Antony and Cleopatra.' I was fan bearer for Miss Fanny Daventport." She got her ticket.—Detroit Saturday Night.

The New Industry.

"You must own a great many cattle," he said to the grizzled ranchman. "You seem to have a large number of cowboys. We saw you showing them how to lasso the cows this morning and all that sort of thing. Were you teaching some new ones?" "Cowboys!" laughs the ranchman. "Shucks! Them was a lot of fellers I am teachin' stunts to do in Wild West shows an' on the vaudeville stage next season. I ain't been in the cow business for ten years."—Life.

Vagaries of Finance.

"I understand you have paid the mortgage off your place." "Yep," replied Farmer Cornstossel. "Then why do you complain of hard times?" "All the neighbors have done the same thing. That leaves me with money on my hands that nobody wants to borrow."—Washington Star.

Marked Superiority.

Mrs. Lash—Dat makes me sick, Sistah Spradley—de proud and sussy atrs dat gal done puts on since she mar'd a Chinaman!

Mrs. Spradley—Well'm, she brags dat she's de on'y culled lady in de c'munity dat's got a husband dat does de washin'. Suppin' to dat, atter all, Sistah Lash!—Puck.

One or the Other.

Nell—Is your boss engaged to that girl he called on so much? Belle (the typewriter)—I don't know whether she has shaken him or promised to marry him.

Nell—What do you mean? Belle—He has stopped buying her costly presents.—Catholic Standard and Times.

The Bandit Foiled.

"Pinch yer sister's muff, Jimmy. We want dat muff fer de captain's bear-skin cap." "She won't lemme have de muff." "Well, ain't yer got yer trusty two handed sword?" "Yes, but she's got a hatpin."—New ark Star.

It Must Have Been.

"What's de matter wif yo' face, Rastus?" "Accident. Mah wife done throwed a plate at me this mornin'." "Do yo' call that an accident?" "Yes, sah. Didn't she hit what she was aiming at?"—Buffalo News.

An Indication.

"Do you think they approved of my sermon?" asked the newly appointed Nector, hopeful that he had made a good impression. "Yes, I think so," replied his wife. "They were all nodding."—Scotsman.

The Other Legs.

Benham—I don't see how you get around in your hobble skirt. Mrs. Benham—Do you remember when it took a surgical operation to get you out of your skin tight trousers?—New York Press.

Queer Solution.

"Uncle, why do more blonds get married than brunettes?" "Because they're light headed, I suppose."—Spokane Spokesman-Review.

Mann and the Voter.

In the eyes of some people a seat in congress is merely an opportunity for the man who occupies it to accumulate much money in ways that are devious and queer.

When Representative James R. Mann was in the thick of his fight for re-nomination in his district in Chicago a voter approached him boldly with the request for a gift of \$5. "Look here, my friend," said Mann; "I can't give you any money. In the



Will Jones

"I'm sorry, but I can't help you." first place, I haven't got it to give, and, in the second, there's a law against handing out money to voters."

This had no effect on the visitor, who lowered his request to \$2. "I need that \$2," he pleaded.

"I'm sorry, but I can't help you," answered Mann. "Why, just look at this thing from a financial viewpoint! Suppose there were 25,000 voters in this district and each one had to have \$2. If I could give it to them under the law that would mean an expense of \$50,000."

"Oh, what do you care?" asked the visitor, laying his hand familiarly on Mann's knee. "You can get it all back when you go down to Washington."

A Dry Weather Horse.

Jacob Hope, the animal expert of Philadelphia, was talking about animal fakers.

"There was a Manayunk man," he said, "who wanted a piebald horse. He visited a dealer up in the Blocks, and the dealer the next day produced a beautiful piebald—half cream and half black—that the man bought at a stiff price.

"But the first time he drove his new purchase in the park a rain came up and the spots washed off. The horse wasn't a piebald after all.

"The man drove straight to the dealer's again.

"Look at that horse!" he said. "The rain has taken all the spots off."

"Good gracious," said the dealer, "so it has! There was a rubber blanket went with the animal, sir. Did I forget to give you a rubber blanket?"—Washington Star.

STOPPED SHORT OF COMMITTING HIMSELF

How Oliver Holmes Made a New Year Resolution.

The late Julia Ward Howe was no believer in New Year resolutions.

"We should make and keep good resolutions all the year round," the celebrated author once said in Boston. "I am no great believer in New Year vows, for, although they are splendid things, they really don't amount to much more than Oliver Wendell Holmes' tobacco resolution.

"Mr. Holmes, with affected gravity, said to a friend on the first day of the year:

"I really must not smoke so persistently. I must turn over a new leaf—a tobacco leaf—and have a cigar only after each—here he paused as if to say 'meal,' but he continued—'after each cigar.'"

The Two Dramatists.

Thompson Buchanan, the brilliant young dramatist, was praising the dramatic critics of New York.

"If these men err," said Mr. Buchanan, "it is on the side of generosity and forbearance. Set dramatists to criticizing one another and there would be a different tale to tell.

"For dramatists are cruel critics. Two dramatists once sat opposite each other at a Christmas dinner. A waiter, in filling a glass with champagne, joggled against the older man's ear. He growled:

"Be careful, there, waiter. Remember, please, I've got a head on my shoulders."

"But the younger dramatist said, with a nasty laugh, across the table: "'A head? Rubbish! You've only got a pimple on your shoulders that will never come to a head.'"

The Giant's Staircase.

One of the most widely known geological curiosities in the vicinity of Cork is a series of knobs or knots projecting from the face of a cliff. There are sixteen of these huge projections all together, all regularly set in the face of the cliff, one above the other, forming a series of such uniformity as to give it the general appearance of a stairway. Since time out of memory this queer ascent and its projecting "steps" have been known as the Giant's Staircase.

How He Won.

A rich old man was asked how he made his money. "Simplest thing in the world," he said. "I always did the reverse of what everybody else was doing. If everybody bought, I sold—prices were high. If everybody sold, I bought—prices were low."

Prepared For the Worst.

Husband—Goodby, my dear. A pleasant voyage. I have taken every precaution in case of accident. Wife—What do you mean? Husband—Insured your life in my favor.—Journal Amusant.

Her Dear Friend.

"I have declined marriage proposals from five men," said the fair widow. "Have you?" her friend asked. "I didn't suppose your husband had been as heavily insured as that."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Fleur-de-lis.

The fleur-de-lis, the well known emblem of France, is said to have been brought from heaven by an angel to King Clovis, he having made a vow that if he proved victorious in an impending battle with the Alemanni near Cologne he would embrace Christianity. It was the national emblem until the revolution of 1789, when the tricolor (white, red and blue) was adopted. The royalists in 1871 tried to restore the old emblem to the flag, but without success.—New York American.

Giant Breakwater.

In the construction of the new harbor at San Pedro, Cal., the Government is building a breakwater that extends two miles out into the sea. Piling is first driven, on which a railway trestle was built, and immense quantities of rock are being dumped on both sides of it.

Children for Monkeys.

Evidence has been given by the police that children are frequently hired in order that they may be taken out with organs, that the usual rate of payment for them is sixpence a day and that they have practically supplanted monkeys for the purpose.—Lancet.

Singing Cure.

The suggestion that singing may be used in the fight against pulmonary tuberculosis is an interesting one and is a further instance of the therapeutic value of hygienic measures, which is so large an item in the current professional creed.—Hospital.

Never Saw a Car.

Miss Mary A. Egge, one of Allentown's oldest women, died recently, after having lived more than 50 years within a block of a railroad, and for 15 years close to an electric railway, but without ever having ridden on a steam train or trolley car.

At the Three Ball 8'gu.

New York City has 238 pawnbrokers, and such is the nature of their business that the law requires that their books shall be open to the Mayor, Criminal Courts, Magistrates and police.

Growth of German Cities.

In 1890 Germany had not a single city of 200,000 inhabitants and only two (Hamburg and Berlin) had over 100,000. To-day there are 41 cities of 100,000.

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