

THOUSANDS OF DUCKS.

RAISED ON A PENNSYLVANIA FARM FOR THE MARKET.

Hatched Out in Wooden Incubators, and the Youngsters Are Not Allowed to Go Near the Water—Feathers Are Valuable—A Big Profit in the Business.

In many instances the rise of modern farm industries has been so sudden that few city dwellers are yet aware of their importance or of the extent to which they have been carried out.

Think of a poultry farm, for instance, seven acres in extent, where 18,000 ducks are confined. It seems almost incredible that such a place should be under our very nose, so to speak, without our having any exact knowledge of it, situated, too, in the heart of one of the richest farming districts in the state, near Allentown.

If one becomes accustomed to the deafening clack-clack made by the thousands of feathered denizens of this novel duck farm, which is owned by Oliver Gittner, a most interesting holiday can be spent on the place. Close by, at the Duck Farm hotel, kept by Alfred Griesmer, entertainment for man and beast to suit the most fastidious, is to be secured. Mr. Griesmer's duck suppers are a specialty well worth the trip alone, the very finest ducks from the farm, selected with great care, being served on these occasions.

The most interesting feature about the modern poultry farm is the wooden mother or incubator, indeed, it is just this Yankee invention which has made duck farming on the scale to which it is carried on the Allentown farm possible. There are two classes of this apparatus, one heated by hot water, the other by hot air. Some are regulated by thermostatic bars made of brass, iron, rubber and aluminum; others by alcohol, ether, electricity and the expansion of water. Naturally the first place to be inspected on the duck farm is the incubator cellar, a room especially constructed for the purpose, partially underground, to secure a more even temperature, as the eggs during the process of incubation are most susceptible to sudden changes of weather.

When the poultry farmer prepares to hatch out a brood in his incubators he places the eggs in trays, which trays are put in the incubators directly under the tank which supplies the heat to the egg chamber. The incubators are built double-walled and the air space packed with asbestos to prevent the sudden changes of temperature from affecting the egg chamber. In size the smaller incubators range from 25 to 600 eggs capacity, and can be operated the year round.

The most successful seasons, however, are in the spring or fall, or even in the winter, the results in summer being the least satisfactory. During the period required to hatch the eggs, 21 days, the temperature in the incubators is maintained at 103 degrees. However a change of two or three degrees in either direction will not, as a rule, result seriously.

For 24 hours after hatching the young ducks are left in the incubators to dry. Then they are transferred to brooders, some of which are made to hold as many as three thousand ducks. These brooders are constructed in long narrow houses about 14 feet wide and 300 feet in length. They are heated by hot water, and the ducks are retained in them for five weeks, after which they are transferred to the cold brooders or ordinary houses affording them a comfortable shelter. The percentage of eggs successfully hatched in the incubators is about 60 per cent., while the loss of young ducks is about 10 per cent. Thus about 50 per cent. of the eggs result in marketable ducks.

One great advantage of duck farming over chicken farming is that the ducks are ready for market weeks before the young chickens can leave the farm. At the age of eight or ten weeks the ducks are usually in a condition for sale, weighing about four and a half pounds.

Another feature of duck farming and an important item in the profits, is the feathers. About 1000 pounds are secured annually on the Allentown farm, these feathers fetching on an average about 18 cents per pound. In the popular mind ducks are generally associated with water, and many small poultry raisers bar ducks from their farmyard because there is no suitable stream in the vicinity for them to paddle about in. It is, therefore, rather interesting to learn that the ducks which are bred for market on the Allentown farm are not allowed to go near the water, although Cedar creek, a stream of the purest water, flows through the farm. The breeding ducks, however, are allowed the free run of this creek, much to the envy of their brothers and sisters, who are being fattened for sale on the other side of the inclosure.

Although the modern incubator has simplified and made poultry farming on a large scale possible and profitable, at the same time the incubator does not fulfill all the requirements in the successful breeding of ducks. Great care must be taken of the young broods after their arrival in this world. After the first few weeks of their life the young ducklings require the closest watching and much experience to bring them to a marketable age.

The matter of feeding is not by any means the least important of the details that have to be carefully looked after. The ducks must be fed well and at regular intervals, and as much as a ton and a half of food is consumed daily on the Allentown farm. Proper exercise for the youngsters is also very necessary, and cleanliness is an absolutely imperative factor in the successful raising of ducks.

It is remarkable how expert the

duck farmers become in the picking of their birds. A man is slow indeed who cannot strip a duck of its feathers in three or four minutes, and do it so nicely withal, that the feathers are never broken or injured for the market and the skin of the ducks looks as smooth and unbroken as if the operation was performed by magic.—Philadelphia Times.

THE COLDEST COUNTRY.

The Thermometer Occasionally Drops to 90 Degrees Below Zero.

Symon's Monthly Meteorological Magazine gives an interesting account of "Life in the Coldest Country in the World," which has been taken from the bulletin of the Royal Geographical Society at Irkutsk. The name of the place is Verchojansk, in Siberia, longitude 133 degrees 51 minutes east, latitude 67 degrees 34 minutes north, where the lowest temperature of minus 90 degrees Fahrenheit has been observed, and the mean of January is minus 48 degrees Fahrenheit. It is inhabited by about 10,500 persons of the Yakut and Lamut races.

In a large part of this region, according to Prof. Kovalik, the air is so dry and the winds are so rare that the intensity of the cold cannot be fully realized. In the most distant part of the east there are sometimes terrible storms, which are most fatal to life in their consequences. During the summer time the temperature occasionally rises to 86 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade, while it freezes at night. The latter part of the season is often marked by copious rains and extensive inundations, which invariably lay waste a vast acreage of land and prove to be a serious obstacle to the cultivation of the soil. Vegetation is very scanty. There are practically no trees—only wide, open meadows. The people hunt fur-bearing animals, fish and raise cattle and reindeer. It requires about eight cows to support a family, four being milked in the summer and two in the winter. The cattle are very small in size, and are fed on hay in the winter. Occasionally they are allowed to go out when there is the slightest break in the weather, but their teats are always carefully covered up. Milk is the principal food. This is supplemented with hares, which are quite abundant, but not very palatable.

The houses are constructed of wood, covered with clay, and as a rule consist of only one room, in which the people and animals live together. The upper and wealthier classes are better provided with lodging and food. As a race they are exceedingly courteous and very hospitable, and they are excessively punctilious concerning points of honor, such as the place at the table and the proper place as festivals.

Strange Forms of Suicide.

Suicide is developing strange forms in Paris. A dressmaker was working with her three assistants one evening recently, when they began to talk of their troubles, and three of the women, all about twenty-five years of age, coming to the conclusion that life was not worth living, decided to kill themselves at once. The fourth, a girl of twenty-one, said that she did not care to be left alone and would die too. They all wrote farewell letters to their friends, sent out for a bottle of cherry brandy and some charcoal, stopped up the openings into the room, lit the charcoal, and drank the brandy. They were heard laughing and singing until late in the night by the neighbors, and all four were found dead the next morning. A few days before an actress in one of the minor theatres, who was supping with three female friends, told them that she meant to kill herself. They discussed the best means for accomplishing her purpose and decided on poison. She went at once to a drug store and procured what she wanted, drank it in the presence of her friends without interference, and after watching her convulsions and seeing that the poison had done its work, they called in a policeman and told him what had happened.—New York Sun.

Remarkable Swords.

Samuel Maxim, a brother of the famous Hiram, inventor of guns, lives in the little village of Wayne, Kennebec county, Me., and is himself an inventor. Some time ago his attention was called to the fact that both India and Japan have produced swords that will cut through a gun barrel without losing their edge. This led him to study old Hindoo literature on the subject of steel manufacture, and then to begin at Wayne a series of experiments which soon resulted in the production of a small quantity of steel possessing a remarkable temper. From these few ounces of steel he had one or two drills forged, and with these he was able to drill holes through an ordinary file without damaging the drills at all. He has not yet made any steel for sale, nor does his process at present always produce the desired results.—Boston Transcript.

What Are the "Capitulations?"

In the discussion of terms of peace between Greece and Turkey, frequent reference has been made to Turkey's demand for the abolition of the capitulations. These capitulations are the provisions by which Greek subjects resident in Turkey share with the subjects of other independent powers the right to appeal from Turkish tribunals to their own consular courts. There are several million Greeks living in different parts of the Turkish Empire, and among them are many active business men, and some of large means. Turkish courts are notoriously oppressive and corrupt, and it would be a serious matter to these millions of Greeks if they were left without appeal from their jurisdiction.—Youth's Companion.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

ROOF CUT IN TWAIN.

While Winding a Clock, an Altoona Woman is Shocked by Lightning.

While Mrs. Joseph Yon was winding a clock at her home in the country, two miles east of Altoona, the other day, a bolt of lightning struck the chimney at whose base the clock stood. The lightning shattered it and the chimney fell out at the bottom, covering Mrs. Yon with bricks and mortar. The roof was cut completely in twain as if by a huge saw. Mrs. Yon and her husband, who were both in the same room, were both knocked senseless by the shock, the chair in which he sat having been upset. Yon recovered consciousness first and dug his wife from beneath the debris. Both wife and husband are past 60 years of age, but show no ill effect of their experience.

The following Pennsylvania pensions were granted: John R. Baird, Brockwayville; John H. Falkenburg, Woodcock; John Haley, Washington; Seth Stevens, Franklin; John C. Shank, Wilhelm; William F. Means, Grange; John W. Jackson, Canonsburg; William Rodgers, Middletown; Thomas A. Wagner, McClure; Catherine Mains, West Newton; Mary E. Powell, Bradford; Sarah A. Diamond, Beaver Falls; John Ditzel, Oak Ridge station; William D. Ritchey, Tatesville; Robert E. Yammart, Cooperstown; Sarah J. Wise, Hollidaysburg; Charlotte Colbert, Frankstown; Silience F. Miller, Hartstown; Elizabeth Hood, Brush Valley; Amanda Horn, Grassville; Susan McClellan, Washington; Theodore H. Gilbert and David Hill, Erie; Jacob Bean, Allegheny; Edward D. Schafer, Marrow; Thomas Kelly, Kane; Joseph H. Barger, Jr., Woodland; Peter Nellis, Grand; Mary J. Murray, Pittsburgh; Antino Morales, Washington; Henry Spiehl, Latrobe; Robert Wilson, Turtle Creek; Bertha Lessinger, Homestead; Julian Delp, Bela.

Preparations were being made for a labor parade and demonstration at Leechburg, when Maj. Beale met Rev. L. M. McDermott, of the Baptist Church, and asked him if he would assist with what he was doing in regard to the miners' strike. The minister replied that he was more than satisfied to defend the down-trodden miners. One word led to another, and finally Mr. McDermott stated that it was his pleasure to defend the laboring men from the operators, who were simply robbing them and would continue to do so. Maj. Beale demanded to know if he was to be called a thief, and Mr. McDermott replied: "If you are taking from your miners without a fair recompense, yes." Maj. Beale immediately struck McDermott a stinging blow on the side of the face, and the minister, without offering to lift his hand, asked to "smite the other cheek." Maj. Beale went before a justice of the peace at once and paid his fine.

James Durkin, one of the leaders of the mill strike at Scottsdale, and George McLain, a business man, were arrested the other day on charges of disorderly conduct preferred by Manager Robert Skemp of the rolling mill. The charges are the result of a crowd of men and boys hooting at Mr. Skemp and the right of strikers to hoot at the non-union men will be tested in court. There will also likely be a conflict of authority between the burgess and justice as to who has jurisdiction over such cases.

When it comes to robbing a morgue, Beaver Falls has a case that takes the lead. The other day, during the absence of C. E. Vandervoort, a thief entered his undertaking room, and, wrapping a Mackintosh coat over a child's casket, walked from the place as deliberately as if he were on honest business bent. He was seen by the police and others, but nobody suspected that he was perpetrating one of the boldest robberies in the history of the town.

A steam threshing machine went through the Brandy Run bridge, near Fairview, a few days ago. Curtis Heidler, who was steering the machine, was caught between the water tank and the engine and was terribly scared, but several ribs broken and is injured internally. He will die. The fireman, Daniel Kerwick, was thrown into the creek and escaped with bruises.

Mrs. Annie Leicher, wife of Postmaster Harry Leicher, of Silver Spring, committed suicide the other day by drowning herself in an abandoned well a short distance from her home. The cause is ascribed to melancholy induced by the illness of her husband and one of her children. She leaves four small children, and was 27 years old.

The Darlington bridge over Loyalhanna creek, near Leigonier, collapsed while Kimmel Johnson was driving a two-horse team across, precipitating the man and horses to the bed of the creek, 20 feet below. Johnson was badly hurt and the animals may have to be shot.

Rev. W. H. Houghton, pastor of the Episcopal churches at Huntington and Tyrone, died suddenly Thursday. His death was due to heart disease. He leaves a wife and two children. Mr. Houghton came from Salt Lake City, Utah, two years ago.

Street cars in Lock Haven were run Tuesday for the benefit of the Y. M. C. A. with young women as conductors. The cars were tastefully decorated, and the patronage was much larger than usual. The Y. M. C. A. had the cars leased for the day.

The Washington Glass Manufacturing Company has received from an eastern firm an order for 1,000 dozen lamp globes and bodies. Seventeen hundred and fifty barrels will be used in packing the goods, which will require nine box cars for transportation.

Mercer and Lawrence counties propose to jointly build a workhouse, as their contracts with the Allegheny county workhouse will not be renewed, owing to the crowded condition of the latter institution.

Frederick Blaney, 16 years of age, was drowned while fishing in the Frick reservoir, in Dunbar township, Fayette county. His companions became frightened and did not assist him.

James D. Love, a well known merchant and justice of the peace at Fort Palmer, had his ear torn off and was otherwise injured in a runaway.

While putting a new engine together on an oil lease south of Clarion recently, Frederick Lintz got caught and before the engine could be stopped an arm was badly broken and the other one dislocated.

Frank Wilson, wanted at Connellsville, on a charge of burglary, was arrested at Kingwood, W. Va., but escaped from the constable and succeeded in getting out of town.

A man who registered at York as W. T. Gorsuch, and who was soliciting advertisements in a directory, has been arrested for raising a \$5 order to \$50. He confessed.

THOUGHT HE WAS A HERO.

Dilemma of the Man Who Held a Burnt Bath-tub Together.

One of the most ridiculous situations which at the time bring the coldest sweat out of a man's brow, and ever after remain with him as a constant source of mirth, occurred to a Shelton merchant a few days ago. He thought he would take a bath, and as his flat is minus one of the chief requisites for the job—a bathtub—he extemporized one out of a small washtub and enjoyed a cooling ablu-tion.

He had just concluded and stepped from the tub for the towel, when suddenly the top hoop of the tub burst with a sharp report, and the man saw to his horror that the whole contents of the tub would soon be flooding the floor. At the same moment he thought of the store beneath and the amount of damage the water would do as it ran down through the ceiling. He is a man of quick thought, and in a moment he did the only thing possible, throw himself down beside the tub and, clasping his arms around it, held the already fast swelling staves together. He was successful in keeping the water in—but what a situation. He dared not yell, for he was hardly in a condition to receive callers, especially as he knew that all in the block at the time were of the gentler sex, and he realized at once that the only thing left for him was to stay in that position until the return of his wife, who was out on a shopping expedition.

Like the boy who saved Holland, he manfully remained in his most uncomfortable position until relief in the shape of his wife appeared. Then to cap the climax, when he asked her to get a rope or any old thing to tie about the tub, she, after a long fit of uncontrollable laughter, asked him why he didn't carry the tub and contents out to the sink room and pour out the water. With a look that froze the smile on her face he did as she said, and without a word donned his clothing and wandered out into the cold, unfeeling world, a crushed and humiliated man.—Ansonia Conn., Sentinel.

Curious Lands in Florida.

Payne's Prairie, three miles south of this city, covers an area of 50,000 acres. A large proportion of the prairie is now covered with water, but there are thousands of acres around the borders of the lake which has been formed on which horses and cattle graze. There is no way of estimating the number of cattle, but there are many thousands, and they are in fine condition. The prairie, or savanna, which it really is, occasionally goes dry, the water passing out through a subterranean passage called the sink. Where the water goes to has never been determined. When the sink is open the lake goes dry, and when the outlet becomes gorged or choked, a lake from five to seven miles wide and about eighteen miles long is formed. When the waters of the lake suddenly leave it, thousands of alligators, snakes, fish, and turtles are left with nothing but mud for their places of abode. The fish and turtles perish, but the saunans and reptiles seek and find other quarters. For miles along the northern border of the lake there is a succession of sinks, averaging in depth all the way from 25 to 100 feet. Subterranean passages run in every direction, leaving the ground in the shape of a honeycomb. The ground is liable to give way at any time, creating a new sink. The scenery around the lake, especially on the north side, is unique and grand, and is an attractive feature to strangers who visit this city. The sink has for many years been a popular resort for citizens of Gainesville, who go there to fish, boat ride, and in other ways enjoy themselves. It is said that this vast area of land could be drained at trifling expense, and were it drained it would be the largest as well as the richest tract of productive land in Florida. It is for the most part a bed of muck. The land is owned by various individuals.—Gainesville Sun.

Where the Office Sought the Man. Talk about 'Poo Bahs, Representative King of Utah claims to carry the prize for officeholding.

"I once held six offices at the same time," he said yesterday to a reporter. "In the early days of Fillmore City, in my State, we actually had more offices than men, consequently I was City Assessor and Collector, City Recorder, City Attorney, County Attorney, member of the Board of Education, and member of the State Legislature. That was a pretty good haul for a young man not 22 years of age."—Washington Post.

In a country town, when a man buys a new suit, people gym him for a week.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, ss.

LUCAS COUNTY. FRANK J. CHERNEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHERNEY & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

FRANK J. CHERNEY, Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, 1895. A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free. F. J. CHERNEY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, etc. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

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Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, &c., &c., &c.

Se. Particular.

"They seem quite particular in Paris," said an attache of the state department, "about having the French language used by any representative of the United States."

"Yes," replied Miss Cayenne; "I understand they go so far as to insist on putting French labels on American wines."—Washington Star.

Without Effort.

Anxious Mother—I don't understand how it is, Bertie, that you are always at the foot of your class.

Bertie—I don't understand it myself; but I know it's dreadful easy.—Boston Transcript.

Getting at the Root of Things.

Lea (sadly)—I don't know what to do with that boy of mine. He's been two years at the medical college, and still he keeps at the foot of his class.

Ferris (promptly)—Make a chiropodist of him.—Tid-Bits.

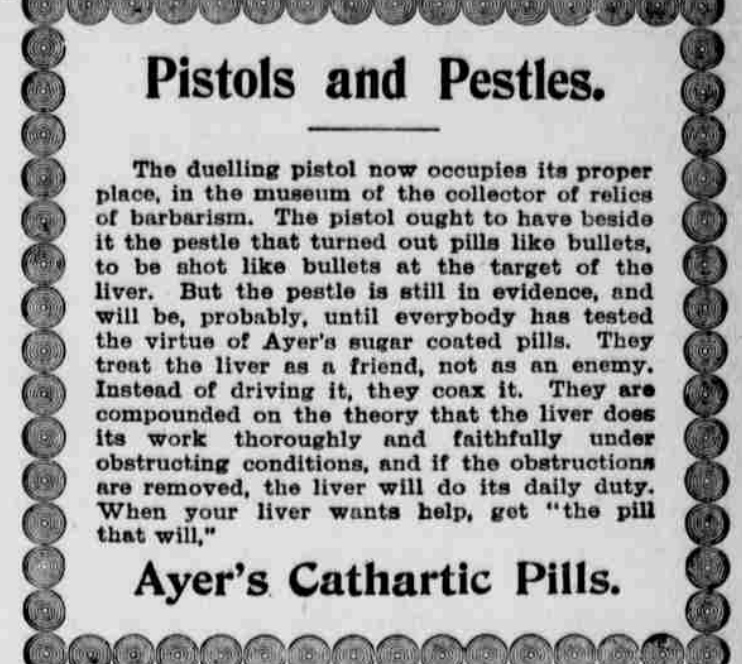
Yukon and Klondike Gold Fields.

Parties intending to visit the Klondike Gold Fields or invest in stock companies operating in that country, are advised to get the Canadian Government Alaskan Boundary Commission, Prof. Gulliver's Report on the Yukon and Klondike Gold Fields, before doing so. This is the official report made last spring which so astounded the Canadian Government that they did not publish it till Prof. Gulliver confirmed it personally on his arrival in Ottawa. The report is very extensive, abounding in photographs and maps and giving the most reliable information as to routes, climate, and the indescribable wealth awaiting the miners. Sent, postage paid, on receipt of 50c. in stamps, by the Toronto Newspaper Union Publishers, 44 Bay St., Toronto, Canada.

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I have found Pilo's Cure for Consumption an unfailing medicine.—F. H. LOTT, 135 South St., Covington, Ky., Oct. 1, 1894.



Pistols and Pestles.

The duelling pistol now occupies its proper place, in the museum of the collector of relics of barbarism. The pistol ought to have beside it the pestle that turned out pills like bullets, to be shot like bullets at the target of the liver. But the pestle is still in evidence, and will be, probably, until everybody has tested the virtue of Ayer's sugar coated pills. They treat the liver as a friend, not as an enemy. Instead of driving it, they coax it. They are compounded on the theory that the liver does its work thoroughly and faithfully under obstructing conditions, and if the obstructions are removed, the liver will do its daily duty. When your liver wants help, get "the pill that will."

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