

LIFE OF THE SWISS PEASANT



POISING FOR A PICTURE IN THE SWISS ALPS

SWITZERLAND never grows old or pale. It never wears its lovers and admirers. It is always beautiful. Surely its people have found the fountain of perpetual youth, for nothing stales its seasonal and perennial attractions, possessing that rare thing that even vandal men cannot destroy.

The peasants love their home and in many instances preserve the delightfully quaint customs which so greatly charm the tourist. One would be mistaken to judge these people as ignorant; the constitution of the country enables them to obtain an insight into general state affairs and great care is taken in the education of the young to broaden their knowledge in every direction. Their intelligence, therefore, strikes the visitor as remarkable.

During the summer one is not troubled with snow until one reaches about eight thousand feet altitude. In the winter snow is, however, as low as 2,000 or even 1,000 feet. The white line thus moves high or low according to the season.

The pageantry of the season indeed is nowhere else so crowded with delightful surprises in which the people move in sympathy. The peasants are true to the nature that has mothered them. In the spring the villages are agog and abustle, holding picturesque old-time festivals, preceding the start of the herds to the mountain pastures. The matrons of the herds are provided with melodious bells, globular in form, but thin and light and differing in size from twelve to two inches in diameter. They are as varied in pitch as in size, and their tones mellow into a gentle, harmonious effect without harshness.

The herders and the dairy maids meet on the village green to enjoy a day of song and dance. Preparations are made for the summer's round of activity in the mountains, where, in spite of hard work, an almost idyllic experience is lived by the light-hearted peasants. The verdant and aromatic pastures, amid these wonderful scenic settings, provide vistas opening on wide horizons of jagged peaks and profound gorges clothed with the rarest verdure. The mountain herdsmen and their comely companions of the churn are hardy and blooming, and song and yodeling continually ease and relieve the labors of the summer when duties are arduous and results imperative.

It is a unique and inspiring sight to witness the annual spring parade or procession starting for the mountain pastures. The usual cooking and dairy utensils have to be transported, for these migrants from the vales must remain with their charges in the mountains until the time of return in the fall of the year. They occupy their mountain huts, which are fitted suitably for themselves as well as for the necessary dairymaking. As soon as the snow begins to disappear from the lower pastures the herder marshals his herd and starts out. In the festive procession the bull leads. On his horns are placed a milk stool, and on his head a chaplet of flowers. He bears, hanging from his neck, the deep-toned bell. These melodious bells are made of alloyed silver. From their tones have originated the imitative yodeling or warbling of the herder—a sudden changing from the falsetto to the chest voice, and vice versa. Following the monarch of the herd comes the queen of the kine, gayly decorated and wearing the best bell of the cows. Every cow has her bell, and so accustomed are they to them that losing them is a disaster, even causing a loss of the "cud." The kine know their places. At the start the strongest and best assert their precedence. They will battle among themselves for the right of way, which, once settled, all is peace. The bell-cow leads in the search for pastures new and she brooks no interference.

The mountaineer's response to the sound of the herder's joyous yodel is the "alpenhorn," a long horn, the effect of which must be heard in the Alps to be appreciated. The mountains echo it with infinite sweetness, and the effect is tender and thrilling. The farther the distance from which its tones are heard the more flute-like seems its answer—powerful, mellow. Strong and sweet, it fills the valley, while the echoes are rung weirdly and strangely from the mountain ramparts. In the former times, when the sturdy Schweitzer often had to leave his herds and repel an intruding force, the alpenhorn was the means of sum-



PEASANT IN NATIVE DRESS

moning him to arms. Even now the melody has a haunting sound that seems to speak of martial deeds. "No wonder the sound of the alpenhorn was forbidden during the days when the Swiss served as mercenaries to France and Italy and other countries," says a writer. "Its sound would cause hundreds of otherwise faithful soldiers to desert for their Alps. And the songs with which Alpine herdsmen call their companions from hill to hill and from crag to crag are of the same nature."

There is a very practical relationship between good singing and good dairymaking, and this was proved at a farmers' congress at Interlaken, where in a milking contest three days long, the same cows, milked in songless silence, yielded 200 quarts of milk; milked by maids with fair voices, they yielded 220 quarts; milked by maids with the finest voices they yielded 240 quarts. This proof of a fact that had long been suspected at once set a premium on the milkmaids who could sing well. They that could not sing well began immediately to study vocalization, and hence Switzerland has many good singing milkmaids. Milking time in the mountain is easily known by the tourist on account of the enormous volume of song that then sears up. Silent milking is a crime, and the dairymaid who milks in silence is certain to lose her position. Swiss maids who apply for places in dairies are examined as strictly in singing as in milking and butter-making. But dairymaking is only one of the Swiss peasants' occupations.

All over the sides of the mountains are seen the pretty chalets, with their patches of cultivated ground, and every peasant seems to own some land, even though it may be not more than a few square feet, but it is divided off into little plots for the different vegetables like pieces in a crazy quilt. In the valleys are the orchards and pasture land. The mountain farms are steep and rocky and cannot be plowed, but are dug up with spades and hoes by women and girls. The women also occasionally cut the grass on the almost perpendicular mountain slopes, bind it into bundles and carry it to the barns on their backs.

There is scarcely anything so picturesque as a Swiss haymaker with curiously pointed hat, his loose blouse of dark hue and his knee breeches, as he moves about with his rake over his shoulder. That self-same swain swinging his broad-bladed, straight-handled scythe, while with a swish-swish he mows the grass laid before him, makes another graceful figure. The round, rosy cheeks and the simple costume of basque, full short skirt and bright head-dress of the buxom maidens who rake after him render the picture complete.

The costumes of these still idyllic peasants are as picturesque as nature. The Bernese peasant girl's costume is beautiful, with its snow-white shirt-sleeves rolled up to the shoulder, exposing to view a plump, sunburnt arm.

The life of the people, active and intensely human, is filled up with many festive occasions, full of ceremonial traditions. In these they exhibit their national customs and costumes, and the most interesting of them concern affairs nearest the heart. Betrothal, marriage, christening, as well as the many folk affairs, furnish occasions in which the festive dance is gleefully indulged in. Many a hard day's work is ended by such a festive gathering, and then it is that the soul of the peasant is wrought forth in his timely acts.

HAPPENINGS IN THE CITIES

Greater New York's Increased Needs



NEW YORK.—That the New York city government has, in some ways at least, kept pace with the city's growth as shown in the census returns is manifest from a budget study compiled by the city statisticians. The census returns show an increase in the population of 38.7 per cent. In the same ten-year period the city budget has grown from \$90,778,972 to \$163,030,270—an increase of over 74 per cent. The figures estimated for the expenditure of the actual city, as apart from the county, were for 1909 \$79,201,763, and for 1910 \$158,775,145, or 94 per cent increase.

The increased cost in the city government is partly accounted for, according to the budget officials, by the widened scope of municipal enterprise. For example, ten years ago the domestic relations courts in Manhattan and Brooklyn, the special schools for defective children or tuberculosis patients and the establishment of playgrounds were entirely outside the general conception of what the city government should do.

The expense of maintaining the city's police force has increased more than a third in the decade. The board of education now requires twice as much as in 1900—\$28,500,000, instead

of \$14,000,000. The street-cleaning department spends 50 per cent more—\$7,500,000, instead of \$5,000,000. The health department's appropriation has grown 125 per cent—from \$1,950,000 to \$2,750,000. The fire department costs 80 per cent more—\$8,150,000, in place of \$4,550,000.

Figures for church membership in Greater New York compiled by local organizations show that the number of church members for the five boroughs is 1,310,421, or 37.2 per cent of there were 1,233,677 members of Christian churches. This was 35.9 per cent of the population.

The figures seem to show that the growth in church membership is 1.3 per cent ahead of the population growth. This growth, it is estimated, is divided about evenly between Protestants and Roman Catholics. At present it is calculated that there are 440,783 Protestants to 869,648 Roman Catholics.

A remarkable fact in the religious work of the city has been the growth of the Lutheran church, its additional churches since 1855 having been 22 per cent of those built in Greater New York. Next to it comes the Protestant Episcopal church, which has built ninety-three churches to the Lutherans' 113.

There are at least 66 separate Christian bodies at work in New York, of which the four which obtain the largest tax exemptions on account of property are the Roman Catholic, the Protestant Episcopal, the Presbyterian and the Jewish.

Souvenir Postal Saves Heir \$20,000



CHICAGO.—An unusual story of a lost heir to a \$3,000,000 estate, whose chance mailing of a souvenir post card will bring him \$20,000, was revealed in the probate court the other day. The man is Cornelius Carney, now a resident of Oklahoma City, who was thought to have perished in the San Francisco earthquake and fire in April, 1906.

The story he told in court ran like this: He was born 30 years ago in Troy, N. Y., a member of a large family whose head, John Carney, was for more noted for his convivial habits than for his thrift and industry. Consequently the little Carneys found life in Williams street alley a struggle in which dirt and want were daily factors. After being very bad for a long time the condition of the Carney family became worse, and Cornelius was sent to a children's asylum.

There wasn't much in life in Williams street alley but liberty—there was plenty of that—and the comparative comfort of the asylum couldn't

compensate Cornelius for the loss of his freedom, so when he was old enough to care for himself—13 years old, to be exact—Cornelius ran away and started out to see the world. After several years of wandering, Charley enlisted in the United States marine corps. He served for six years, and in that time visited every port you ever heard of and more besides. Early in 1906 Carney was in China and wrote home that he was sailing soon for San Francisco. That was the last his relatives heard of him in years.

In 1908 Mrs. Anna F. Baker, who was Mrs. Carney's sister, died in Chicago, leaving an estate of \$3,000,000, of which a considerable part went to the Carney children, who had grown up and prospered in Troy. To settle up the estate it was necessary to find Cornelius alive or prove him dead, and one was about as hard a task as the other. Finally the courts decided Cornelius was dead—although he was married and living in Oklahoma.

Within a short time Cornelius' share in his aunt's estate would have gone to Cook county, but just in the nick of time Cornelius sent a souvenir post card to his sister, Mrs. Lizzie Pratt of Troy, who at once wrote him that he was an heir to his aunt's estate. In court Carney proved his heirship and will get the \$20,000 before long.

Ants Are Driving Kansans From Home



WICHITA, Kan.—Grasshoppers, chinch bugs and Hessian flies, and a few other such pests, have visited Kansas in bygone days, eaten the crops, trimmed the leaves off the trees and driven more or less hardy pioneers back to their wives' folks in the East, but never until this year have ants in sufficient numbers been noticed to cause people to desire to leave their once happy homes in the Sunflower State.

From several towns come reports of ants in such numbers as to cause actual worry by the inhabitants. The people are not unaccustomed to the little black ant and the red ant which visit the sugar bowl occasionally, but they can't account for the swarms of all sorts and breeds of ants which are

now in evidence. Kiowa and other towns in Harper county tell of the visits of the ants.

Almost the entire residence portion of Kiowa, a town of more than one thousand inhabitants, is in the grasp of untold millions of ants. At first the earth seemed literally to be alive with them. There were big ants, little ants, red ants, blond ants and brunette ants. They all seemed to be hungry and they got into the houses. Not content with the food in the pantries, they infested carpets, beds, chewed clothing to pieces and caused a great deal of havoc.

Openwork stockings and porous underwear had to be abandoned for close-knit clothing by the residents, because the ants didn't remain on the floor or in the beds, but swarmed over human beings.

In certain sections of the town families actually moved out to get away from the ants, thinking it was cheaper to move than to lose their household goods. Others are devoting their time to fighting the pests by fumigating the houses and inundating the floors.

Hog Raising a Social Eccentricity



LONDON.—Women of title, jaded by the fatigues of the season, are being offered unique opportunities for calming their overwrought nerves. Lady Wolsey, head of the Ladies' Park club, has conceived the happy idea of enabling the blue-blooded members to live as farm hands. The retreat that has been provided for them is far from the madding crowd, in an antique country house in Middlesex county.

Duchesses tired of the social whirl go there to commune with nature and to enjoy the delightful luxury of plain fare. Life on the farm will be almost severe, for the spoiled darlings of society. They are not allowed to play

bridge or to smoke cigarettes within the charmed walls of the farmhouse. But there is nothing to prevent a countess from sneaking away to enjoy a whiff in the cow shed.

Titled farm hands may also disport themselves among the poultry, and carry feed to hungry hogs. Experts are on the premises to teach keeping, bread making, how to run a poultry farm and how to spin. It isn't compulsory for countesses to kill fowls for the market, though wayward fancy may lead them to enliven their week-ends by waiting on the pigs.

Spinning is included in the category of interests, because spinning is held to be such a restful and poetic occupation. Spinning wheels have been imported from Scotland and lessons are given at \$1.50 by a proficient instructress. The role of shepherdess at the farm is popular, but the most amused people on the premises are the rustics who do the real work.

FARM NOTES

SECRETS OF HONEY BUSINESS

Bees Will Store Just as Much in Old Box or Washing Machine as in Finest Hive.

Bees will store just as much honey in any kind of an old box, keg or deserted washing machine as in the finest hive that was ever made, and that is one of the big secrets of the bee business; the principal thing is keep the box cool by shading it during the heat of the day, though shade at other times I consider objectionable.

Close to the hive have an abundance of water, some salt and slaked lime, writes A. F. Benney in Farm Press. The best watering device I



A "Tree Box."

know of is a board set at an angle of about twenty degrees with a can or bucket at the high end which leaks just fast enough to keep the board wet a little. The container must be kept covered, else the bees will get in and drown.

Secret No. 2. Do not molest the bees after they get to work, and give them an abundance of room in which to store honey—2,000 to 3,000 cubic inches is not too much.

No. 3. Bees will sting, for they are built that way. The remedy is to wear veil and gloves until you get to like having the little dears prod you.

Take an old box of about 2,000 cubic inches capacity and across one end fasten a dozen sticks the size of your finger, nailing into the ends of them through the sides of the box. Cleat the cover boards together, cut a hole one half by six inches in the lower end and fasten it on with screws. Now tie a wire loop in the top of the box to hang it up by and you have what I call a "tree box." With several of them, which cost me just 15 cents, I got honey enough to sell for \$100, but I sorted it carefully, putting the clean white comb into jars (Mason), and selling it for 15 cents a pound. The rest of the honey I strained and put in jelly tumblers, Mason jars and tin (gallon) cans and it averaged me 11½ cents a pound. Labels can be bought at a low price which aid in selling. At the end of the season I had besides the honey several swarms of bees and could have had more.

Long Churning.

The principal causes for long churning are here given in the Montana experiment station bulletin, and possibly those interested may find out what is wrong by comparison with these different causes.

1. Cream may be too cold.
2. Cream may be from "strippers."
3. Cream may be too thin.
4. Cream may be too thick, and thus whip up into a lather when the churning commences, and by sticking on the side of the churn is not really churning, even if the churn is revolving.
5. Churn may be too full.
6. You may be churning too fast and thus carry the cream right around with the churn.

Of course, there are bacterial infections that will cause slow churning, but I would hardly suppose that you would be bothered to that extent. Probably in looking over your work some of these causes may give you a clue.

Bees and Cucumbers.

A correspondent of one of the leading bee journals is authority for the statement that more than 100 growers of hothouse cucumbers in Massachusetts have found it necessary to keep bees in their buildings to "set" or fructify the cucumbers. Over 1,000 colonies are now being used in this way and in most cases it has been found necessary to replace these colonies each year. This has created a steady demand for bees, and the benefits derived have been so apparent that this demand promises to grow. At present, however, an earnest effort is being made to determine if possible, why colonies thus kept in hothouses are short lived, since the necessity of replacing them almost yearly is not only very expensive but seems a great sacrifice of the industrious little insects.

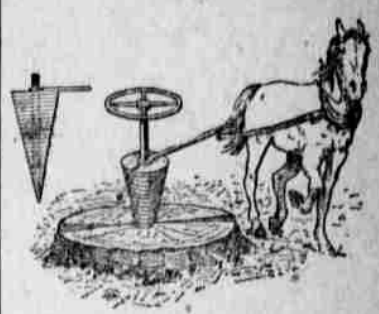
Good Pastures.

Shade from the hot sun and pure water are as essential to good pastures as plenty of grass.

STUMP SPLITTER IS UNIQUE

Old Method of Using Wedge or Dynamite Improved Upon by Large Conical Screw.

The usual method of removing stumps of trees from the ground is to split them by the use of a wedge or a blast of dynamite, says Scientific American. The accompanying illus-



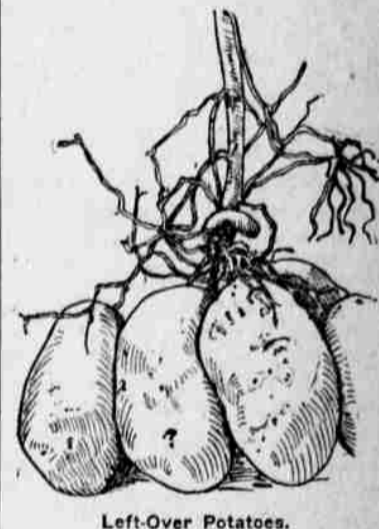
Unique Stump Splitter.

tration shows a new method. It consists in screwing a wedge into the top of the stump. The wedge is in reality a large conical screw, provided at its lower end with a fine thread used for starting the cone into the wood. The shaft of the screw is provided with a hand wheel, by which it may be steadied and turned. Extending laterally from the shaft is a long arm, at the end of which a whiffletree is coupled. A horse may be hitched to the whiffletree, to turn the shaft and screw the cone into the stump. When the stump is too large for the threaded cone on the shaft to split effectively, another cone section may be added. After the stump has been split by means of the cone into a number of small parts these parts can easily be excavated and removed.

POTATOES WERE LEFT OVER

Seed Remained in Ground All Winter and Produced Strong, Vigorous Plants.

Sometimes potatoes left in the ground over winter will produce good crops the following year. Of course such instances are rare and are not easily accounted for. The photograph



Left-Over Potatoes.

from which the accompanying cut was made was sent by a man living at Stamford, Conn. He says this hill was from seed which remained in the ground all winter and grew strong, vigorous plants the next spring. The ground had been heavily fertilized for rhubarb.

FARM NOTES

The application of lime to cabbage soil is highly recommended.

Thin the early endives and keep the cultivation going between the rows.

Bee hives should be made so that they can be opened without jarring them.

Stirring honey unnecessarily causes it to candy sooner than it otherwise would.

Avoid breaking or treading on the vines when gathering cucumbers or melons.

The best way to combat the Hessian fly, is to seed the wheat fields as late as possible.

On the same day that the plowing is done the harrow or packer should follow the plow.

The cool days of middle autumn afford the best time of the year to paint the farm buildings.

Eat the string beans while they are crisp. Take a dish of them over to the neighbor who has none.

One hundred pounds of nitrate of soda per acre will help shove late cabbages along wonderfully.

The queen bee lives to an age of four years or more, but the workers live for only about forty days.

Keep the tomato vines off the ground. Hand-pick tomato-worms; they are easily found and killed.

If you want to enrich your soil cheaply, sow a cover crop as fast as the ground is vacated by vegetables.

Hoe or cultivate cabbages, and other growing crops, often,—at least once in ten days, and especially after rains.

Close stopping of fruiting cucumbers is necessary or a lot of useless wood and foliage will be made. Young plants, of course, will need more freedom.

Growing Cedar Trees.

A farmer in Tennessee has 25 acres planted to cedar, which is grown for the sole purpose of making lead pencils. The trees grow very rapidly and are cultivated like any other crop.