

Young Folks

CHOOSING A KING.

"Once upon a time all the birds met in council to select a king," began Aunt Isabelle, who was telling a story to half a dozen little boys gathered round her under the orchard tree.

"This story has come down to us, and there must have been something to start it. The birds all met one day to decide which one of all their number should be honored as king of the bird world. All of them were present—the red-breasted robin, the wise old owl, the sunning crow, the graceful dove, the modest sparrow, the great eagle, the chattering magpie, the light-hearted lark, the cooing dove, the cruel hawk—all the one and a hundred others, and earnestly they discussed how the choice should be made."

"The bird of paradise and the cockatoo thought that the bird with the most brilliant plumage should be king; but the thrush, the phoebe and the raven would not agree to this. The canary and the bobolink argued that the choice should fall upon the bird with the sweetest song, but the coot, the vulture, the swan and the snowbird at once raised objections to this plan."

"At last it was agreed that the great honor should go to the bird which should mount the highest in the air. The sun itself was to be the goal, and the bird which flew the nearest to it was to be hailed forever after as the king of the birds. There was no other condition of special rules to govern the contest, and this freedom left open a way by which the race was finally won, as we shall see."

"When the signal was given, they all flew upward, a wonderful cloud of birds of all colors and sizes, some darting swiftly through the air, some fluttering their wings frantically, and some moving more slowly, but with the appearance of much strength in reserve."

"Very soon many of them gave up the race, and dropped back exhausted to the earth. Others kept bravely on, till they were mere specks in the blue sky, and had gone even higher than the clouds themselves."

"One of the last of the small birds to become a speck was the little wren; but instead of giving up, it flew upon the back of the great eagle, and there it got nicely rested, while the eagle soared on and on, and left at last all the other birds far behind."

"Was it fair for the little wren to do that?" broke in Rose.

"There was nothing in the rules of the race to prevent it," answered Aunt Isabelle, "and so the wren thought it had a right to make up by strategy what it lacked in strength. So it sat there very comfortably on the eagle's back, concealed by the feathers, and its tiny weight not noticed by its mighty rival. All the other birds in turn gave up, but the eagle still soared toward the top of the sky. But even its powerful wings became tired at last, and after a final effort to go still higher, and thus make still more sure of the great prize, the eagle hung motionless a moment, and then wheeled slowly downward toward the distant earth."

"At that moment the little wren, with a shrill cry of victory, left the eagle's back and flew far upward into the air beyond the height which the tired eagle had been able to reach. Down below, the other birds could not understand how it had all happened; but they lived up to their agreement, and their council at once solemnly proclaimed the tiny wren to be the king of birds. And since then the wren has always worn its smart and saucy air. It tells forth its glad song at noon, when most of the other birds are silent, and it sings through a greater part of the year than most of the others."

"This story of the choice of the wren as the king of the birds is very old, and is found in the bird legends of many lands. In some languages the name of the wren means 'little king' or 'bird king.' The wise men of ancient Greece set the story down in their books, and it was likewise known to the early races of northern Europe and to the Indians of our own continent."

And all the little circle who had eagerly listened to Aunt Isabelle's story were very sure that they would remember it when next they saw a wren or heard its happy song—YOUTH'S COMPANION.

Some railroad securities are as insecure as the road itself.

One of the teachers of the secondary schools is telling a story which happened in an ancient history class the other day. "Who was Atlas?" the teacher asked. "A giant who was supposed to support the world," answered the child. "Oh, he supported the world, did he?" "Yes, ma'am." "Well, who supported Atlas?" "The scholar was not asked for a moment, but after a little thought said: 'I guess he must have married a rich wife.'"

SUNDIAL AND SAND GLASS

ANCIENT METHOD OF TELLING TIME.

Before Matches and Clocks—Were Earlier Timepiece Made 2,000 Years Ago.

The art of telling time is as old as the earliest historical records, though the methods employed in dividing up the day into equal periods have varied greatly during the past eras, and only in modern times have watches and clocks as we know them become customary. Many of these are most elaborate, but practically all possess a circular dial or face. However, only as late as the sixteenth century many watches were oval in shape, and an oblong one with six sides kept splendid time after it had been repaired 90 years later.

THE EARLIEST TIMEPIECE.

Probably the earliest form of timepiece, says Harper's Weekly, was the "gnomon," or index rod, of a sundial. At first this was merely an upright stick placed in a sunny spot, and measuring the passage of the day by its shadow cast upon the bare earth, because the dial was a later invention.

The sand glass, still frequently used as an indicator for the boiling of eggs, dates back 2,000 years, and was always reliable in marking a fixed space of time, such as the hour. It has not been very many years since the hour glass had its particular place on the pulpit in our churches as an ever-present reminder to the preacher not to overtax the attention of his audience. The finger glasses were filled with powder eggshells thoroughly dried, for this material was not so susceptible to atmospheric moisture.

MEASURED TIME BY MOTOR.

A still earlier instrument was the clepsydra, which measured time by the efflux of water through a tiny orifice. There were two types of these. In the first the water trickled from a small opening in one vessel and slowly filled a receptacle which was graduated to indicate periods of time and generally a "float" pointed out the height of the water on the side of the vessel. In the second variety of this clepsydra the graduated vessel, having a small orifice in the bottom, rested upon a surface of water and gradually filled and sank at the expiration of the fixed interval.

DESERT NICHES.

Pampas of Patagonia Produce Wool and Hide Worth Millions.

The pampas of Patagonia, famous for their sheep ranches, are great desolate deserts, sometimes level as far as the eye can reach, sometimes undulating in graceful monotony, and again a chaos of lava rock. A few swift, dangerous rivers have ploughed steep canyons. In slight depressions, where snow melts and water accumulates there are greasy meadows.

Several hundred sheep were brought from the Falklands in 1877 to Punta Arenas and sheep raising was thus first introduced into the regions of the Strait. From this nucleus the stormy Territory of Magellanes (of Chile) to-day carries perhaps 2,000,000 sheep.

Punta Arenas is its centre and base of supplies. To the north of the Strait, south of Rio Santa Cruz (Argentina), the littoral and contiguous river valleys support perhaps 1,000,000 more.

Thus this little lonely Strait settlement, the Mecca of southern Chile and Patagonia, is one of the great wool exporting ports of the world, shipping away on steamers three years ago over 16,000,000 pounds of wool with a commercial value of over \$1,600,000. In addition to this there was a sale of nearly 400 pelts. Thus sheep raising in these regions has been more lucrative than gold digging and more profitable than copper.

Although here in southern Patagonia the few million sheep graze on some of the poorest land in Argentine territory, says Harper's Magazine, yet they go far toward piling up her enormous total of perhaps 70,000,000 head of sheep, making her first as an exporter of frozen meat and second only as a shipper of wool, justifying her maintaining in her beautiful capital the Central Produce Market of Buenos Ayres, the largest wool and hide market in the world.

VANITY OF LIFE.

How small a portion of our life it is that we really enjoy. In youth we are looking forward to things that are to come. In old age we are looking back to things that are gone past; in manhood, although we appear indeed to be more occupied in things that are present, even that is too often absorbed in vague determinations to be vastly happy on some future day when we have time.

GIVEN UP BY HIS PHYSICIAN

"FRUIT-ACTIVES," THE FAMOUS FRUIT MEDICINE, SAVED HIS LIFE.



WILKESBORO, Ont., July 5, 1921. "I suffered all my life from Chronic Constipation and no doctor, of course, I ever tried helped me. 'Fruit-Actives' promptly cured me. Also last spring I had a bad attack of BLADDER and KIDNEY TROUBLE and the doctor gave me up but 'Fruit-Actives' saved my life. I am now over eighty years of age and I strongly recommend 'Fruit-Actives' for Constipation and Kidney Trouble."

(Signed) JAMES DINGWALL.

50c a box, 4 for \$2.50—or trial box, 25c—at dealers or from Fruit-Actives Limited, Ottawa.

GIRL JOCKEYS NEXT!

English Horseman Predicts That They Will Come in Time.

"The Racing Calendar contains the name of only one woman as a jockey. Mrs. Thornton, who in the August of 1904 rode her husband's horse Vinagallo at York before a tremendous crowd," writes a correspondent of the English Gentlewoman. "She appeared in a leopard colored silk racing jacket with blue sleeves and blue cap. It is said that \$1,000,000 changed hands over the race. Mrs. Thornton was beaten."

"On the Continent a couple of years ago a girl took out a license as a jockey, but as yet in England none of the sex feminine has done so. It only requires some trainer to apprentice one or two girls and 'put them up' for the profession to be open to them. And why not?"

"Nine-tenths of the boys who go into racing stables know nothing about horses or riding. Eight-tenths of them never learn to use their hands properly, six-tenths of them never become horsemen and end their days as stable lads riding exercise work."

"Girls have far better heads than boys, they think more and are more observant. They would be able to give a trainer a few more helpful accounts of how a horse has gone in a trial or a race and they would ride a lighter weight. Generally speaking, they would be gifted with so much better hands that strength would not be so much required, for strong jockeys are often only necessary because boys with bad hands have been riding in private the horse they are to steer in a race in public."

"It may be in our time, but I am confident girl jockeys will come and that they would be far more use to trainers than many of the apprentices they put up, who have as much as ever they can do to 'stick on,' let alone get the most out of a horse. Woman's position on the turf is by no means stationary, great as have been the strides it has taken in recent years."

BULLETIN BUBBLES.

Common thief—procrastination. Can't be whipped into shape—bad eggs.

The loving cup is seldom an empty honor.

Of the best wallpaper, one may say, "Hang it all!"

With some pig-headed people, it is "whole hog or none."

Most women have the liveliest time when they are dressed to kill.

Distance, you know, may lend enchantment, even to some near relatives.

When some people fall in love, it generally is somewhere in their own vicinity.

Of course, the cook ought to dress well; especially when it is a fowl.

When it comes to the rag, some people never bite off more than they can chew.

It makes a girl hopping mad when there are no men to dance attendance on her.

The dude might not know enough to resent it if you remarked that his mail all came to naught.

Not even the most enthusiastic Englishman can rightfully claim that his country is without a peer.

You may know a moneyed man like a book, and still not know much about his pocketbook.

It may be filthy lucre, but would it be considered a neat job to go and clean out the bank?

Smith—How do you remember to water the plants when your wife is away? Brown—Oh, I leave the windows open so the storms can wet 'em.

Shiloh's Cure

quickly stops coughs, cures colds, heals the throat and lungs. 25 cents.

On the Farm

GETTING COWS IN SHAPE.

Every cow ought to be given a vacation of six to eight weeks before freshening. After she is thoroughly dry her feed should be of the best in quality and sufficient in quantity to enable her to lay on flesh. Here is where most dairymen make their greatest mistake. They do not consider that a dry cow needs much feed since she has only herself to keep. At no time during the lactation period will it pay better to feed a cow well than while she is dry. The flesh she gains while dry will cost for feed from six to ten cents per pound depending on the season. After freshening she will milk off this extra flesh in butter fat at from 25 to 30 cents per pound, giving you a profit of from 300 to 500 per cent, on the cost of the extra feed it took to put this flesh on her. A mighty good investment, yet how few dairymen maintain a ration unless she herself gets it from good pasture. In view of this I say feed her very liberally after she is dry. Corn, oats and bran, equal parts, make a good feed and all of these grains are available to nearly every dairymen. During the winter months a few pounds of such a mixture in addition to silage and clover hay, if you have both, will put a cow in fine condition. If she is on good grass a little of the above grain mixture will likewise help to put her in most excellent condition. Two weeks before freshening it might be wise to reduce the amount of corn meal and increase the bran. Say what you will about the cost of bran, it is the safest feed to give a cow about to freshen. At this period attention is necessary every day. Watch the udder develop; see that the cow lacks nothing to make her comfortable and gain in strength so that she can make up a fine udder. In winter the feeding of a little oil meal is almost necessary a few days before freshening. Begin with one-fourth pound per day and increase by one-fourth pound per day up to one and a half pounds per day. Things will move along better by so doing, the after-birth will be expelled quickly, and the cow will regain her strength in a short time after. After calving milk little and often, one quart from each teat every 12 hours, then gradually increase the feed very gradually, if no bad symptoms appear. Don't be in a hurry to get her on full feed; take three weeks in which to do that. Feed a balanced ration. If you are in the race simply for production, make one-half her feed of grain; if for the most profit give her all the ensilage and clover or alfalfa hay she will eat and enough grain to bring you the

MICA AXLE GREASE

is the turning-point to economy in wear and tear of wagons. Try a box. Every dealer everywhere. The Imperial Oil Co., Ltd. Ontario Agents: The Queen City Oil Co., Ltd.

greatest percentage of profit. Experienced Dairymen.

GREEN MANURING.

In the cultivation of land, especially light soils, the system of green manuring, in order to supply at the same time organic matter and fertilizing material, is now recognized as an important factor. Peas, beans, and clover have all been utilized with success for this purpose. On very rich soils the value of green manuring has yet to be proved. The latest scientific conclusions are: 1. Different crops suitable for green manuring in good soils must be subjected to careful trials in order to ascertain which is the best for the purpose. 2. The effects of different green manuring crops must be tested, not only by the immediately following crop, but throughout the rotation. Green manuring has proved to be very effective in the cultivation of roots not only increasing the bulk of the crop, but improving the quality of the roots. Oats also seems able to utilize the nitrogenous material of the green manure, but some seasons the crop is liable to lodge, and the advantage of the extra growth is thus sacrificed. Potatoes have shown variable results with green manuring. As regards the suitability of the different kinds of plants adapted for green manuring crops, peas and beans answered very well but, according to experiments, are inferior to clover. The use of mustard as a green manuring crop should be carefully avoided, as its effect is distinctly unfavorable, as proved by reliable experiments. Green manuring is destined to play a more important part in soil cultivation than it has hitherto done, and forms a subject that all farmers should study and find out by trials how they can best take advantage of it.

DANGER PLACES IN A STORM.

Peril of a Crowd—Lightning and Hedges or Iron Fences.

What is the safest place in a thunderstorm? As a rule the safest place of all is inside a building which is provided with a perfect lightning conductor. The conductor, however, must have no defects. If it be broken or have a faulty earth connection it is then a source of grave danger. In an ordinary dwelling house, unguarded as it usually is against lightning, a safe place is the middle of the largest room, where one is away from the walls, or a still safer precaution is to lie on an iron bed drawn out from contact with the wall.

The most dangerous places in the house, we are further told, are near the bell wires, or an open window, or the fireplace. Outside the house the places of danger are proximity to walls and buildings and iron fences. Another danger is

PLENTY OF COAL IN ENGLAND.

Great Hidden Field in Three Counties Seen to be Worked.

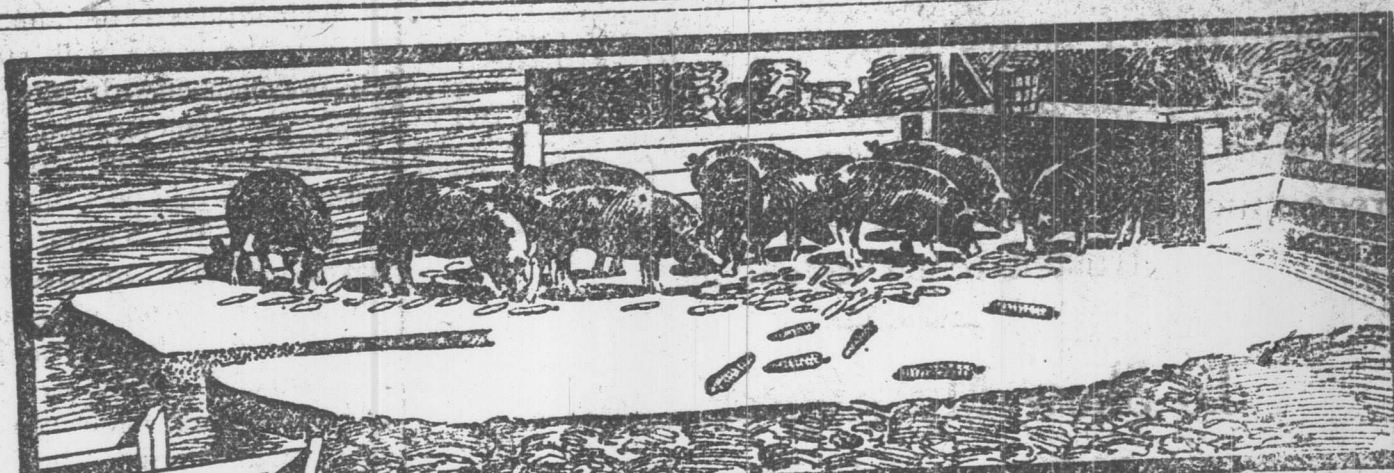
That the coal deposits of England will soon be worked out, and that with them will vanish the last vestige of her commercial and manufacturing supremacy, is a rather general supposition. But a statement made at the geological section of the British Association at Sheffield throws a new light on the domestic fuel supply of Great Britain. There is said to be an enormous undeveloped reserve of coal underlying contiguous portions of North, Derbyshire and Yorkshire, and known as "The Concealed Coalfield" of these three counties. This great deposit has been touched at Thorne and Selby in the West Riding, and at several other points. It is said to be so rich that it may be bored anywhere, and guesses are being made that when it has been developed coal will fall to the price of sixty years ago, 25s a ton. Professor Kendall, of Leeds University, declares this hitherto unworked coalfield will be the support and hope of industrial England.

THE LADY FROM MISSOURI.

The Caller—"Time passes quickly in company, doesn't it?" The Victim—"Does it?"

Shiloh's Cure

quickly stops coughs, cures colds, heals the throat and lungs. 25 cents.



This Feeding Floor Could Be Built in The Fall

and it would help greatly to preserve the condition of your live stock in the Spring.

Every farmer knows that in the Spring of the year his barnyard is almost bottomless. The live stock mire down into the mud and almost float around—greatly to the detriment of their physical condition.

By building a Concrete feeding floor in the yard, this trouble is done away with.

A Feeding Floor of comparatively small

area and built this Fall, would pay for itself next year. Concrete is the only material that can be used in this way at a moderate cost.

Will you ask for your copy of the book which we have prepared for you—"What the Farmer Can Do With Concrete"? It's free—and, take our word for it, you'll find it one of the most interesting pieces of such literature you ever read. And profitable, too—because it will save you money.

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