

On the Farm.

ROUTINE DAIRY WORK.

Routine care of dairy stock in winter is essential to success, writes Geo. E. Newell. A stated hour for feeding another for milking a third or cleaning the stable should be observed punctually. No other dairy system can be made to pay. Cows soon adjust themselves to conditions; if the conditions are wrong, they go wrong, too.

If the cows are milked at 7 o'clock on week days and 9 o'clock on Sundays, fed and watered irregularly, the stable cleaned whenever time permits dairy luck will fly out of the window. Where other farm products are cheap, there isn't a farmer who does not need to keep his dairy luck at home. On winter mornings cows need attention early. Their natural inclination is to go to feeding soon after daylight. Set the milking time so that it will divide the 24-hour day equally, as 6 in the morning, 6 at night or 7 a.m., and 7 p.m., respectively. By not varying from this plan, the lactation of the cow will be equated to regularity in milk secretion and accumulation, and the cow will yield more milk when milked regularly.

As cleaning the stable befouls to some extent the atmosphere, it had better be done after milking rather than before. If done immediately before, a deodorant can be used on the floor prior to beginning milking. Milk flavor is so delicate and fragile a thing that in winter especially the greatest care is necessary to preserve it. The odor from cows and their surroundings in summer time is not offensive to even the most fastidious, but in winter it takes a routine system of care to preserve this cleanliness.

Feed regularly. I urge this not solely because the cows appreciate it, but because they demand it. When a cow's stomach is empty, her milk becomes empty, too. While I believe in heavy feedings yet a small quantity of food given regularly will produce more milk than heavy rations of the same character fed irregularly. While digestion and rumination are going on there should be plenty of water in the cow's stomach. The animal's own desire will decide how large a quantity. It is necessary both for the assimilation of food and to make up the 87.1-2 per cent of water contained in the milk. It must be remembered that cows are dumb, and that, confined in stanchions, they cannot manifest their thirst by any sign. Their need in this direction must be anticipated, not spasmodically, but as routine practice. If several hours elapse without gratification, the present need has passed. They may drink, but the milk flow has been shrunken. Dairy men, this winter of all others you cannot afford to neglect a detail of the observance of which would add to your dairy income.

REMOVING RUBBISH FROM ORCHARDS.

During the summer a lot of rubbish is apt to accumulate in orchards from the breaking down of limbs of trees from over loading or from storms. In such cases those limbs lying in the ground prevent the snow from lying on the surface and offer the most convenient harbors for mice. It is a good plan before heavy snow comes to remove all the rubbish from around fruit trees, and also the grass that often grows near the tree trunk while the tree is small.

OATS GROWN AFTER COWPEAS.

On poor soil it has been shown that where cowpeas were grown and the vines turned under the yield of oats was 10 bu per acre greater than where this crop followed German millet plowed under as a fertilizer. The same series of tests was made at the Ala sta and showed that oats on cowpea stubble produced higher yields than where the vines were turned under. This the station thinks was probably due to the fact that the vines were not properly buried and consequently the stubble afforded a better seed bed.

THE BEST FARM MANURES.

Manure from horses I regard as worth twice as much as that from cows and hogs, says F. S. White. Give the horses plenty of oat straw and let this become fully saturated with their urine before throwing out. This makes the best of all manures for all purposes, but this should not be allowed to heat and burn in piles. Manures of less value, such as cow and hog manure, wood ashes, decayed vegetables, shavings, leaves of trees, in fact any rubbish that will not can be mixed in with the horse manure, the whole being forked over several times to get well mixed. It is generally best to spread manure in the fall and plow in. Coarser manure can then be used than if delayed until spring. Where manure is to be used as top-dressing for grass, clover and strawberry beds it is also best to spread on in the fall, as it affords protection to the roots of the plants.

Now, this matter of the value of manures, when and how to apply, is a matter that the farmer must study out largely for himself, being guided by soils and the crops desired. No one rule will hold good for all conditions or crops. But in nearly all cases the manure should be pretty well rotted and mixed in the soil before seeding. Stiff soils with a clay subsoil will retain manure much longer than any other soils. Sandstays, although highly recommended by some, has but little value, though if mixed equally with

EXTINCTION OF MAHDISM.

BRITISH OFFICER'S ACCOUNT OF THE KILLING OF THE KHALIFA.

A March of Four Days With Two Battles—1,000 of the Enemy Killed and 10,000 Prisoners Taken—The Khan of Kordofan and the Death of His Bodyguard.

The final destruction of Mahdism is an event of such great importance and it was accomplished under such circumstances of dramatic interest that on one can fail to appreciate the following more complete record of the great tragedy. It is from the pen of the British officer second in command of Gen. Wingate's army, and it has just reached his family in London.

BERLIN'S SLAUGHTER OF HAMSTERS

How the Destructive Rodent Came to Germany and France.

The farmers around Berlin recently presented themselves at one of the public buildings with evidence that they had killed 80,000 hamsters in six months, and received the reward offered for the destruction of these harmful rodents. This hamster is a sturdy little animal related to the rat, with a large appetite for grain and a thrifty habit of storing considerable quantities in his hole for future consumption. His skin is of some value and as there is a price on his head, and the grain he steals and caches is worth recovering, there is a little profit in hunting him. There are too many hamsters in Europe, he tries to remedy the evil by emigration. He has only recently appeared in certain cantons of Belgium and France, and the reception he has met would grieve him if he were at all sensitive. There is, just now, loud appeal for drastic measures to stop the invasion, and it is little wonder that the ravages and fecundity of the animal have alarmed the thrifty farmer folk, who leave not a kernel of grain for the gleaner when they reap their fields and much less desire to support hamsters.

The hamster is a native of the Chinese Empire and his overland journey to the Atlantic has taken a great many years. He travelled by slow stages to the southern part of Siberia, then made his way across Russia, and finally appeared in the domain of the German Emperor. The French include him among the verminous rodents of the Franco-Russian war.

FRANCO-RUSSIAN WAR.

They say he never crossed the Rhine till he saw great masses of men and horses marching to the west. He followed after them to see what was going on, was pleased with the country, and never rejoined his brethren in the east.

This is not the first time that an invasion of rodents has been attributed to a marching army. The famous remark of the Marquis de Custine, that the only enduring result of the Napoleonic wars was the introduction to the west of the Persian rat was not intended merely as a witicism. It is a well authenticated fact that the troops who were hurried westward from the steppes of Asia and the plains of Eastern Russia to take part in those gigantic struggles were followed by many thousands of gray or Persian rats that lodged in the deserted camps and found a good living in unconsented trifles. The Marquis might have added that these formidable eastern rodents were a more thorough scourge in their way than were the Visigoths and Vandals for they almost extinguished the race of the black rat which they supplanted in the west.

THE MOON SHOULD RISE.

At 10:45 p.m. we started again and marched till dawn, when we halted, as we were supposed to be near the camp of the Khalifa's advance guard. Ahmed Fedil, of Gedarf fame, and Lewis's cavalry regiment, at Meffisa. Our cavalry carefully reconnoitred, and eventually found Meffisa vacated. It was only a spot in a bushy desert where there was a small quantity of very dirty water. We arrived there about 8 a.m., having marched twenty-seven miles since leaving the river. We then watered our animals, while our Arab irregular horsemen, most of them mounted, and our officer followed in the tracks of the retreated force of Ahmed Fedil. Very soon they returned, and to our great relief, and to our surprise, as they were only about three miles further on encamped by the water pool of Abo Aardel. Fearing that Fedil might again retreat before infantry and Lewis's cavalry scouting in front of us, we promptly sent on our cavalry camel corps, two guns and four maxims, escorted by our black irregular infantry, to try and engage Ahmed Fedil's advance guard. Our infantry and guns could come up. We had to serve out the water from the tanks almost lawfully—a long job—so that the infantry could not go on till that day was done.

Col. Mahon, our A. A. G., a cavalry officer of great experience, commanded the advance guard. He drove in the night, and held him until the morning, and after carefully reconnoitering the position seized a hill close to Fedil's camp which practically commanded the same. He at once shelled the camp with our guns, and the enemy attacked him, trying to drive him off the hill as our infantry came up and joined his party. They were driven away on merchant vessels about 17:40. This species is to-day the common rat the world over, for it is stronger and more aggressive than the black or brown rat, and has supplanted those animals in almost every country.

It is possible to keep noxious rodents within bounds, but it is very difficult to exterminate them. At present the hamster is giving most trouble.

HE ADVANCES SLOWLY.

but seemed to keep every region he advanced to his domain. The present was not severely felt in Eastern France (in three years after the German invasion) and he was not observed in Belgium till 1878. Ten years later the Belgian Minister of Agriculture offered a bounty for his destruction, but in spite of the war upon him the animal has held his own and pushed further afield, defeating the Belgian Minister by invading cantons he had not yet pre-empted, and then at a big France on the Belgian as well as the French side. He is a hard problem to solve, and all that can be done seems to be to earn as much money as possible.

The Far East is the grandfather of the West, and a very large part of living things, including man and much vegetation, has been traced from the Orient to the Occident. There are exceptions, however, to this general law of migration, and the latest that has come to notice is the case of the little insect pest known as the jigger, which reached the west African coast in a sailing vessel from Brazil in 1872 and arrived at the Italian Ocean last year, having crossed the Continent in the equatorial regions, 2,700 miles, in twenty-six years, travelling from west to east.

PAPER THAT WILL NOT BURN.

It has been found possible to make a thin, smooth and strong paper of asbestos, which can be employed in the manufacture of paper lanterns and other articles which need to be at the same time light and fireproof. The asbestos paper can also be made waterproof. It is prepared with the same machinery used for making ordinary paper.

PARTED FOREVER.

All's over between us; he's no loss; His name we've put in the ground; But—here he comes again; oh, my! I wonder will he smile or sigh

FROM THERE HE COULD MAKE SURE OF THE KHALIFA GOING WEST TO SHERKESH OUT OF REACH, AND IT WOULD PLACE HIM IN AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION TO STRIKE THE KHALIFA IF HE TRIED TO ADVANCE NORTH BY THE WAY AHMED FEDIL HAD RETREATED. HIS ORIGINAL PLAN OF ADVANCE.

OUR ONLY DIFFICULTY

was the uncertainty of finding water, all we had as yet seen even our animals would not drink; so we sent back all our empty tanks with 200 camels from Abo Aardel to the river, with orders to come out again and meet us at that place in two days' time; we had still one and a half days' water, and we reckoned that we could get to Gedid, twenty-three miles, and if we found no water there, could always come back next day and meet our water. So at midnight we started again, and got to Gedid about 9 a.m. It was very hot and the last two hours tried the men very much, the sun was on our backs, after little sleep and less water. At Gedid we found a ready-made camp, and our spy, who told us the Khalifa, or Masarudin, some seven miles south-east, the road to which was through a densely wooded country. Our search for water was not successful. Our Egyptian officer, were entrusted with the job of finding out the truth, and off they went, it being deemed inadvisable to let our regular troops be seen until we were near enough to strike—a wise precaution.

Luckily we found at Gedid a large pool of excellent water, which relieved us from any further anxiety on that score. So we watered our men and horses and camels, filled our tanks, cooked our first meal and generally rested. At 5 p.m. our scouts returned, and the officer reported that he had found no one at Mugarudin, but that he had actually located the Khalifa and all his force at Om Debrekat, a slight ridge, and gently sloping, the road being fairly open and good going except in a few places, where the trees were thick. This was indeed good news, and we then knew that unless the Khalifa retreated, the night we must get a go in at him. At 1 a.m. next morning we started with the moon about a quarter size, well up, and the sun was behind with orders to follow at 4 a.m. We moved most carefully covered by cavalry in front and camels on flanks; the sound was heard except the footsteps of men and horses, and occasionally the crack of a pioneer's axe cutting a way through the thick bush for the column behind him to follow. After three miles we halted, and Col. Mahon went on with a few men, and carefully felt his way, returning to tell us they were still there, and that the highest ground near their camp, a slight ridge, and gently sloping ground in front of it toward the camp, was unoccupied and at our disposal.

WE AT ONCE PUSHED ON.

and arriving at this ridge one hour before dawn put out pickets along our line, and employed for action, lay down and some of us slept.

While we were doing the last mile we heard the sound of the dervish drums beating in front of us; it was evident that the Khalifa meant to come up at daybreak, and we were the dawn commenced, our pickets came in, and we saw dimly the advancing dervishes, who were evidently meaning to take the commanding ground in front of us. The grass also was too late, as usual, and our guns immediately began to play on them, and the fight began. It was hard to discern anything in the uncertain light of early dawn, and the smoke was high, two feet, and the bushes thick, but we could tell in the occasional lulls of the firing from hearing the enemy's shouts, and the sound of their banners that some movement was evidently going on, to pass round our left and try to turn that flank. Naturally, our fire was concentrated on that point, and the flank further protected by prolonging it with companies from the reserve of the flank battalion of infantry. It soon became evident that they could not press the black horse, and they gave in, and well thrown forward we made a regular advance of the whole force, sweeping the remainder of the enemy before us, and not stopping till we had reached the dervish camp, some one-and-a-half miles in the rear.

There we found all the women and children—some 6,000—and having given the Aman, or quarter, large numbers of the enemy accepted the same, throwing down their arms and the fight was over, the cavalry carrying on for some miles and bringing in the remainder of the dervishes, who were once when they heard the Khalifa was killed.

And now for the most touching part of the whole affair. Leaving the troops in the camp, Wingate and his staff rode back, and the scene of the fight to identify the body of Khalifa and make quite sure that the rumor of his death was true.

In the field of battle was evidently the main attack on our right we came across a very large number of bodies all huddled together in a very small place; their horses lay dead behind them.

THE KHALIFA LAY DEAD ON his turban, or shamskin, the typical end of the Arab Sheikh who disdains surrender, on his right was the Khalifa Aly Wad Hila, and on his left Ahmed Fedil, his great fighting leader, while all around him by his faithful Emirs all content to meet their death when he had chosen to meet his. His black Mulamir, or bodyguard, all lay dead in a straight line about forty yards in front of their master's body with their faces to the foe and faithful to the last.

Directly the moon rose on the night after the fight, after having made all arrangements for marching back to the river by detachments of the most comfortable manner, and the same for the bringing in of the large number of prisoners, the fighting of whom en route would be somewhat difficult, and having seen that the Dervish leaders were decently buried in respect for their great gallantry, Wingate and myself rode off to the river, doing the 50 miles in 11 hours. The same night we started south, and next day in steamer managed to finish our official reports necessary to give to the Sirdar at Khartoum. We only stopped there a few hours, and are now, as you see from the above address, one on his way back to his ordinary work in the other to his ordinary work in Dongola.

About the House.

OYSTERS.

Perhaps there is no dish that can be served in so many different ways as this shell fish. Soup is probably the way in which it is most often served, and with crisp crackers and a celery stalk it makes a most royal stew.

Oyster Soup.—To a quart of oysters use three pints of milk. Drain your oysters, add the juice with a teaspoonful of salt to the milk, when it comes to a boil, skim, add your oysters that have been picked over and washed, and let come to a boil again, then a tablespoonful of butter and a couple of shakes of pepper.

Escalloped Oysters.—Drain and wash your oysters. Butter your baking dish, then add a laying of cracker crumbs, then a laying of oysters, with a little salt and pepper and butter, until your dish is most full, leaving the top layer of crumbs. Then add a well-beaten egg with the oyster juice, and bake for an hour, or three-quarters if necessary. Cover the dish while in the oven so the flavor will not escape.

Creamed Oysters.—Take a heaping tablespoonful of butter and two of flour and melt together; then add a quart of milk with a teaspoonful of salt and a couple of dashes of pepper, and stir constantly until it thickens. Cook your oysters in their juice, with a little salt added, for about five minutes. Then drain and stir the oysters in the gravy, then add the juice of half a lemon and a teaspoon of chopped celery. Pour over buttered toast and serve.

Fried Oysters.—Drain carefully, remove all bits of shell, and sprinkle with pepper and salt, and set in a cool place for ten or fifteen minutes. Then, if oysters are small, pour them into a pan of crackers rolled fine, add the liquor, mix well, and let stand five minutes, add a little salt and pepper, mold into small cakes, with two or three oysters in each, roll in dry cracker until well incrustated, and fry in hot lard or butter, or beef-drippings. Serve hot in a covered dish. Or, dip the oysters in the yolk of eggs, well seasoned and beaten, then in corn meal with a little baking powder mixed with it, and fry in hot lard like doughnuts, or if you have a frying basket, place them on that, and drop in the hot lard. Test the heat as for doughnuts.

Raw Oysters.—Wash the shells, open, detaching the flat shell, loosen from the deep shell, but leave them in it, and serve half dozen on a plate, with a quarter of lemon in center. Eat with salt, pepper and lemon juice or vinegar.

TO KEEP LINENS SMOOTH.

Linens center pieces, dollies, and even tablecloths are not things of real beauty from folding them. Any round piece of wool covered with flannel, or a roll of paper, around which the pieces may be carefully rolled, will be found invaluable as a means of keeping linen in good order. In fact a tablecloth ironed with only two lengthwise folds, and then rolled, will look far better on the table than one with criss-cross lines from two much folding.

GUARD AGAINST DROUGHT.

A correspondent commenting on the difficulty of growing flowers in a dry season, declares that to make the ground rich, even what might be called unduly rich for flowers, is one of the greatest advantages in regard to ability to withstand drought. He used what would be regarded as a rich potting soil, not enriched by stable manure in crude form, but prepared in a compost heap. This he managed as follows: "I made a compost heap in one corner of my garden, the basis of it being formed from stable manure wheeled out and piled just after haying, to which was added, during the fall, all rubbish from the garden, such as potato tops, bean and pea vines, etc., as fast as those vegetables were used, refuse from the kitchen, decaying apples and vegetables and that class of stuff that accumulates about the premises which will readily rot down in the compost heap. This was forked over occasionally and whenever any quantity was added to the pile a good coating of garden soil was thrown over it, to prevent the contamination of the air by the unpleasant odors that would otherwise arise from it, so that in the end it was largely made up of this enriched soil."

As to the use of this soil the writer continues: "Then, in preparing our flower bed, I simply inverted the soil in a part of the lawn, turning it to the depth of about six inches or a little more, and on top of this inverted soil added several inches more of the soil I have described, and transplanted from the seed boxes, in which they were grown, good strong plants of annual phlox, sweet clyssum, verbenas and lanthus or Chinese and Japanese pinks. A portion of the bed was planted with mixed varieties of each of the above flowers, each being massed by themselves; and it has been a blaze of beauty from the time it began to bloom early in June up to the present date. The sweet alyssum has been one sheet of white durity all this long period, and for weeks in succession the phlox was a mass of solid bloom, while both the verbenas and pinks have done better than ever we have had them do before."

"During the driest weather in the early part of the season the hose was used occasionally and the bed thoroughly soaked; but later on, our willow water supply becoming so nearly exhausted that there seemed to be some danger of a failure, the use of the hose was restricted and no wa-

ter was given the flowers except what they received from a natural source. Yet the plants kept on blossoming, helped to do so by the richness of the soil.

FOR BEDBUGS.

Here is a remedy that is absolutely infallible. Purchase 15 cents' worth of mercury or quicksilver, beat to a stiff froth the whites of 2 eggs, and then use some old iron fork or utensil that the quicksilver cannot injure, and beat the two ingredients together until thoroughly incorporated and will not separate. Have your bedsteads thoroughly washed and scalded, then apply with a stiff feather the mixture to every part and crack of the bed and every place that the bug has inhabited. If thoroughly done you will never see any more bugs.

OLD PATENTS.

They Have Been Granted for Inventions Hundreds of Years Old.

Hero of Alexandria, in his "Pneumatics," describes, in the third century before Christ, several applications of steam as a motive power, some of which have formed the subject of patents within the last 100 years. In particular, his "Aeolipile" is on very much the same principle as the steam turbine, which is the most recent development of the marine engine, for in both the steam acts directly upon fans, instead of through a piston, in glass ornamentation several processes known in Roman times and subsequently lost, have been revived under patents within this century, particularly the art of incrustation, rediscovered in France by a manufacturer who used it in executing medallions of the first Napoleon. The method of fixing paintings by an application of glass was also known to the Romans, and has been reported since 1840, in excavating the tombs of ancient Egypt in England, recently, an iron-screw of undoubted Roman origin was found with thread and point similar to a well-known modern patent.

NEW YEARS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

The Mexicans celebrate New Year's day with human sacrifices. Jan. 1 was made the beginning of the legal year in England in 1752. Sweden did not adopt Jan. 1 as New Year's day until the year 1753.

The legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland took place on Jan. 1, 1801. Jan. 1 was made New Year's day in France by royal edict in the year 1660. On New Year's day in ancient Egypt there were processions in every temple. The month of January is said to have been named by Numa Pompilius in 672 B.C.

The New Year in Sparta was celebrated by the consecration of youths to military service. The American Indians had a sort of New Year's festival celebrated with feasting and dancing.

In Sberia the state prisoners of the czar are allowed a rest and holiday on New Year's day. In the sixteenth century the common New Year's gift of a tenant to his landlord was a fat capon.

The wassail ale of merry old England was made of ale, nutmeg, toast and roasted apples. The present system, of beginning the new year with Jan. 1 was adopted in Scotland A. D. 1600.

THE QUEEN'S CRONIES.

It not infrequently happens that when Her Majesty, while at Balmoral, visits one of her old friends, the weather turns cold and stormy, and on such occasions, when the Queen prepares to depart, she will be greeted thus: "Dede, mam, and you'll no gang awa till ye tak' a cup of tea to warm ye against the cold." Strange speech, surely, to the Sovereign of the mightiest empire the world has ever seen! Yet the gracious lady bows and smiles, while the good-wife bustles about preparing the humble refreshment for her Queen, and according to a hospitality, for the privilege of doing which many a proud dame and noble lord would willingly sacrifice a great deal of their wealth. Little wonder that these people are pestered by relic-hunters who wish to acquire the cups from which the Queen has drank, or the chairs on which she sat.

EMPEROR A LINGUIST.

The German Emperor, as a linguist, appeared to advantage during his recent visit to England. His English is free from all but the slightest accent, and is terse and idiomatic. He talks it a good deal, and without any hesitation. His French, which, as a rule, is only used playfully and in inverted commas, as it were, has the genuine Parisian "racle." The Emperor also talks English well, but with a strong accent and with an occasional quaint turn of a phrase. The boy vastly prefers their mother tongue, and are apt to "shy" a little if an unexpected speech is addressed to them in English. But they understand the language all the same. To hear the Prince of Wales speak German is like hearing a German born and bred. There is nothing strange about this, however, considering his ancestry.

HONEYCOMBED CITIES.

Mafeking is said to be an absolute rabbit warren of underground dwellings, and no doubt Ladysmith is so as well. The usual method of making a bombproof shelter is to dig at a slant into the ground, then to roof over the excavation with logs and planks, thus making a wedge-shaped dwelling, and on these to heap the earth that has been excavated. Provided there be a depth of from four to six feet of earth over the timbers this roof is absolutely safe from shrapnell shells. Double this thickness and it is safe from any but lyddite or melinite shells.

Dr. Backache

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