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HIS LAST WITTICISM.

Of the late Doctor Poor, a missionary in Ceylon, a man of pleasant humor, the New York Observer tells this anecdote.

During one of the periodical epidemics of cholera which swept Ceylon, Doctor Poor was violently attacked. A messenger was at once dispatched for Samuel F. Green, M.D., a medical missionary, residing about five miles away. When Doctor Green came into the room, Doctor Poor exclaimed:

Well, this is a bad prospect! Here is a Poor patient, and a Green doctor.

This was his last citticism.

Jimmy—I guess you feel pretty bad that you have lost your job. Johnny—I don't care a bit about the job; but I wish I had the pay, just the same.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

So far as legislation can accomplish it all of Africa lying between Egypt and the Sahara on the north and the Zambesi and German Southwest Africa in the south, has been turned into an immense game preserve by the European Powers which have seized the continent. Representatives of Great Britain, France, Germany, Portugal, Italy, Spain and of the King of the Belgians, acting for the Congo State, signed a convention at London for the preservation of wild animals, birds and fish in Africa. Within a month after the certificates of ratification have reached London the convention comes into force and will last for fifteen years. The signatories comprise all claimants to any part of the protected area with their exception of the Republic of Liberia.

Among the commissioners were sportsmen, naturalists and explorers as well as diplomats. They prepared schedules of animals, the hunting or killing of some being prohibited, of others limited and of others permitted and encouraged. No one will be allowed to hunt in Central Africa without a license from the local governments. Reserves are to be established as far as possible within which all hunting is prohibited and close seasons established for the protection of breeding. Dynamite and poison shall not be used, while restrictions are put on the employment of nets and pitfalls. Measures are to be taken to prevent the spread of cattle disease and other epidemics and for interfering with the destruction of specific animals.

The classification of animals is interesting. Those which must not be killed at all are partly useful, namely, the vulture, the owl, the secretary bird and the rhinoceros bird, and partly rare and likely to be exterminated, the giraffe, the gorilla and chimpanzee, the mountain zebra, the wild ass, the white-tailed gnu, the eland and the little Liberian hippopotamus. On the other hand harmful animals are marked out for destruction, and special efforts will be made to reduce their numbers. These are lions, leopards, hyaenas, hunting dogs, Lycaon pictus, otters, baboons and other harmful monkeys, crocodiles, poisonous snakes, pythons and large birds of prey which are not useful.

A distinction is made between the protected animals which may be hunted under restrictions. Of some, the young and the females, when accompanied by their young or otherwise recognizable, must not be killed. This picturesque list includes the elephant, the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus, the zebra, the buffalo, the antelope and gazelle, the ibex and the chevrotain. Export duties will be imposed on their hides, tusks and horns. In regard to the elephant, especially, severe penalties will be imposed, and tusks weighing less than ten pounds shall be confiscated wherever found. For others the restriction is merely that the number to be killed shall be limited by the local authorities. Among these are fur monkeys and small monkeys, dugongs, manatees, small cats, various pigs, jackals, large tortoises, bustards, guinea fowl, and other game birds, whose feathers have commercial value like marabous and egrets, and ostriches, for the preservation of whose eggs special measures are to be taken.

It will be seen that hardly a single inhabitant of the African jungle has escaped the watchful eye of the convention. The London Times, in commenting on the report, thinks nevertheless, that the commissioners did not go far enough and that they should have prohibited all hunting for specified periods, a suggestion that seems even more impracticable than the prohibitions of the convention. The recommendations are almost purely academical for the chief destroyers of animal life in Africa are the natives in search of food or clothing, or of the means of satisfying the requirements of commerce. If they can be educated to abstain from wanton destruction of useful animals some part of the fauna peculiar to Africa may be saved from extinction. Meantime it is something to have secured a general international agreement as to what the civilized nations should do. It will act as a deterrent on European "sportsmen" who seek only to destroy, and may even reach the traders outside of Africa, whose short-sighted policy of immediate gain is a large factor in the threatened extinction of the most valuable and interesting of African animals.

HE WAS BOW-LEGGED.

The Hungarian Beauty Would Not Wed Him on This Account—He Had Pluck.

The Neues Wiener Journal of Vienna reports a curious occurrence from the town of Debreczin, in Hungary.

A young man there was paying court to the local beauty, who approved of him in every respect, with one serious exception. He was, although otherwise handsome, bow-legged. The lady declared that she would never marry a bow-legged man.

The enthusiastic lover hurried to the hospital and begged the doctors to break his legs and re-set them as straight limbs. The doctors at first declined to undertake so dangerous an operation, but finally allowed themselves to be persuaded by the entreaties of the plucky lover.

The operation was performed, and after weeks of suffering the young man left the hospital with perfectly straight legs. He had also gained an inch in height. There was now no obstacle to the union of the happy couple, whose wedding took place on Whit Sunday.

On the Farm.

BREEDING, FEED AND CARE OF THE BACON HOG.

John M. Harris, of the firm of C. & T. Harris & Co., and chairman of the Clane, Eng., Pig Feeding Experiments Committee, has an interesting article in the last issue of the Journal of the British Dairy Farmers' Association on the profitable production of the lean hog bacon.

For some years past, says Mr. Harris, his firm have been trying to find the best breed of pig for the class of bacon in request. First it tried Tams, both pure and crossed with Berks. These, he said, carried a large quantity of lean, but took a long time to fatten, and were often coarse and hard of skin. The Berks pure were next tried, and were found good, but too much inclined to thickness in the shoulders, and in cross-bred ones there was a thinness in the belly, or streaky parts, a serious defect in a side of bacon. Then large white Yorks were tried. In these, says Mr. Harris, either pure or crossed with Berks, were found what the pig curers require. They feed well, mature quickly, are very prolific, not thick in shoulder or too thick in the back, are thin in the skin and yield a side which is thick in the belly, or streaky part.

Mr. Harris also refers in his article to experiments carried on in feeding for bacon. In these experiments barley meal, corn meal, barley meal and bran mixed in proportion of two to one, corn meal and bran mixed in the same proportion, corn meal and pea meal in the proportion of three to one, corn meal and bean meal in the same proportion, and a ration made of barley meal, a gallon of separated milk and three pounds of potatoes were all tried. In the barley and corn meal experiments, in some cases, a gallon of separated milk was added to the meal.

Now for the results. It was found that barley meal gave a greater weekly increase than corn meal, either when used alone or used in conjunction with other foods. The addition of milk to either corn or barley meal added considerably to the weekly gain. When the hogs were killed it was found that those fed on corn meal alone showed the least loss in dressing, less than 23 per cent. On corn meal mixed with separated milk the loss was a fraction over 23 per cent. Those fed on barley meal alone showed a loss of a little over 25 1-2 per cent. and those fed on barley meal mixed with bran almost 28 per cent.

In the matter of quality it was found that the best bacon was produced from hogs fed on barley meal and bran; barley meal and separated milk came next, barley meal third, barley meal, milk and potatoes fourth, corn meal and bean meal sixth, corn meal and separated milk seventh, corn meal alone eighth and corn meal and pea meal ninth. Excess of fat was, the report proceeds, the general failing in corn fed hogs, but this was less pronounced in pigs which had been fed on a mixture of corn with either separated milk, bran, bean meal or pea meal. All things considered, barley forms, says Mr. Harris, a rather more valuable staple food for pigs intended for lean bacon than does corn, although as the price of the former is considerably in excess of that of the latter corn may be more economical especially if used in conjunction with a considerable proportion of foods rich in albumenoids, such as separated milk. Milk is, he says, by far the most valuable addition that can be made to either barley or corn meal, for it is unique in its power of accelerating the weekly increase. As compared with other supplementary foods it improves the quality of the meat more than any other, with the exception of bran. With corn meal it is more potent for good than with barley meal. The addition of potatoes, three or four pounds to a pig per day, to a diet of barley meal and milk greatly improves the ration.

The conclusions arrived at by Mr. Harris are that bacon hogs should be bred from large white Yorks or from those crossed with pure Berks; that pigs should be fattened in dry, warm, well-ventilated buildings placed if possible in a sheltered, sunny position for fattening; the meal should be soaked in cold water; barely meal should be the staple food, supplemented as far as possible with fresh separated skim or buttermilk at the rate of one gallon per pig per day, together with three or four pounds of boiled potatoes.

CARE OF SHEEP.

There are two things that the sheep need as much as any animal on the farm. They need fresh air and they need exercise. The sheep shed should be so built that when it rains or snows so that the sheep cannot take their daily run in the field the windows or upper half doors can be opened to allow the fresh air to enter freely. If they have not been shorn they will not feel the cold, and only those who grow winter lambs shear in the fall. But whenever the weather is suitable they should have a run out in the field, not a yard bare of grass and filled with mud and manure, but in an open field. Even in a damp day they may be out for a short time, but not long enough to get their wool wet through. The uneasiness of sheep when in a pasture shows their need of exercise. They will not eat and lie down as a cow does, and some of the smaller breeds are almost as ready to jump on a wall for the fun of jumping as goats are.

SHYING HORSES.

Horses often have what is called the vice of shying—that is, of starting suddenly at the rustle of a leaf or a piece of paper or at the approach of any object to which they are not accustomed. Clearly this is the remnant of an instinct inherited from their wild progenitors in the steppes or prairies, where the sudden rustling of a leaf might indicate the presence of a wolf and where everything that was strange was therefore suspicious.

It is idle as well as cruel to beat a horse for shying. That only increases his alarm and may easily reduce him to the state of terror in which he loses his head entirely. Horses in that state seem to lose not only their heads, but their perceptive senses, and a horse in that condition may dash headlong against a stone wall. The habit of shying when once formed is difficult to cure, but it may almost always be prevented by such consistent kindness of treatment as to overpower the inherited instinct of instant flight from possible danger in which the habit originates.

THE WAR IN ASHANTI.

Rebellious Natives Helped by the Climate and Natural Difficulties.

The Ashanti troubles seem to be proving more serious than was expected. Kumassi, the capital, where the Governor is besieged, is surrounded by large bodies of natives fairly well armed, the garrison being composed of 700 native troops, under the command of Major Morris. This officer, however, with six others, has been seriously wounded, and one officer has been killed.

This was according to despatches from Kumassi dated June 4. Since then an attempt made by the relieving force to cut a way through the natives holding the country between the Prah River and Kumassi has been repulsed with some loss. The road from Prahsu is blocked by a great number of armed natives, who constructed stockades and placed trees and other impediments to obstruct an advance of the British troops. The climate also adds to the difficulties of an advance, the rains being incessant and torrential, and the rivers flooded, while the bush with which the county is covered, besides being almost impenetrable, is at this season of the year turned into one vast swamp in the lowlands. It is true that the native African troops do not suffer seriously in health from the exposure, but their English officers fall victims to the malaria and heat.

The chief difficulty, in the absence of railways, is the transport of supplies and ammunition. So virulent is the climate that horses succumb after a brief period, and at present the only source from which carriage can be provided are the natives; but they are untrustworthy, being subject to panic, ready at the least alarm to drop their burdens and flee into the bush. There is, moreover, the additional difficulty that a sufficient supply of carriers cannot be had. It was proposed the other day to meet the emergency by a decree impressing the natives, but as soon as it was known that it was in contemplation, so many took to flight that it had to be dropped.

Meantime considerable re-enforcements are reported arriving at Cape Coast Castle, so that there must be quite a small army now in the field at different points of concentration. It is important that the relief of Kumassi should be effected with little delay. News travels fast in those regions, and as it is known that there is quite a number of men who have been trained by British officers with the insurgents, there is the danger of the troubles spreading to the interior to the Niger country, from which these men come, which would be a very serious matter.

That the British Government is alive to this is apparent, from the orders just given to prepare a number of light draught gunboats and steam launches for African river service. It would be a great misfortune should the Governor with his garrison in Kumassi be compelled to surrender, for white troops cannot very well be employed in that country for another four months, and the supply of ammunition in Kumassi is running short.

CAUSE OF CRIMEAN WAR.

One of the Most Bloody Wars Had a Most Trivial Origin.

As an instance of what great events can follow trivial happenings, the genesis of the Crimean war is interesting.

In 1851 Louis Napoleon demanded of the Sultan that the Latin monks should have a key to the great door of the church at Bethlehem; that they should have a key to each of the doors of the Cave of the Nativity, and the privilege of setting up there a silver star bearing the arms of France.

After a year of arduous negotiation the Turkish Government yielded, and in February, 1853, the keys were handed over to the Latin monks and the silver star was established in the sanctuary of Bethlehem.

Unfortunately, the Emperor Nicholas, as head of the Greek Church, considered this an infringement of his rights, and immediately ordered 150,000 men across the Turkish frontier. At the same time he demanded that the claims of the Christian population of Turkey should be secured by treaty with himself; but the Sultan refused this, with the support of France, Austria and Prussia.

The Czar then proceeded to seize the Danubian provinces, proclaiming at the same time that he had no intention to commence war."

The central European countries attempted to secure a compromise, but neither party would agree to their mediation, and in October the Sultan declared war.

England and France joined him, and so, from such slight beginnings, sprang the most merciless, bloody and fruitless struggle of the nineteenth century.

WONDERFUL RUSSIAN EGGS.

Easter Souvenirs of the Czarina and the Dowager Empress Shown at Paris.

Easter is celebrated in Russia with great ceremony, and the custom of giving elaborate Easter eggs has been carried to extravagance by the wealthy and aristocratic people in St. Petersburg; but no other Russian women have such collections of Easter eggs as the young Czarina and the Dowager Empress.

It has, for may generations, been a court custom for the reigning Czar, to give his wife at Easter time an egg containing some handsome gift, usually a souvenir of some particular event, and the present Czar and his father, Alexander III., have always observed the old custom. The two Empresses have, with considerable misgivings, it is said, allowed their Easter egg collections to go to Paris and be placed on Exhibition in the Russian section of the Exposition, and the French dramatic temperament is deeply stirred and moved by this testimony to the intimate and cordial relations between the two nations. From the Easter eggs are being hatched fraternal sentiments and touching enthusiasm with regular incubator expedition and despatch. Many of the eggs are exceedingly interesting as objects of art.

The first received by the present Czarina was given to her in the year of her coronation. It is a large, golden egg, enamelled in rose color, and contains a tiny and perfect model of the state carriage in which the young bride rode to the Moscow cathedral, on her wedding day. The coach is of gold, cushioned in red enamel, and hung with tiny silver curtains which can be drawn on gold wires. The Imperial crown in beautiful diamonds ornaments the panels.

The last Easter egg added to the Czarina's collection was presented this year and incloses a splendid jeweled heart set in rare, many colored gems, and surrounded by twenty-five tiny miniatures, portraits of the members of the Russian royal family.

Among the collection of the Dowager Empress is one egg that commemorates a family storm, and a royal problem. Nicholas II., the present Czar, when a boy, had, as all the world knew, a most irrational and vehement love affair. Society was shocked, the heir apparent's fond parents were distressed and altogether there was a very interesting exhibition of the tempest that Cupid can, upon occasion, stir up in a royal family. Nicholas was hurriedly sent around the world to complete his education, and, as usual, time and absence reduced the royal heart to its normal condition, but the Empress grieved greatly over the separation from her son, and on Easter of that year, the Czar gave her an egg, inside of which was a model of the ship in which her rebellious lad was sailing away from heart entanglement. A gold smith of famous skill had spent ten months making the ship, which was of solid gold, mounted on a beryl stone, and was complete and accurate in every detail, down to the smallest cable.

IN THIRTY YEARS.

Consumption May Be Abolished in That Time.

Sir J. Crichton Browne and other well-known medical experts in England are said to have endorsed the opinion that consumption will, in the ordinary course of events disappear from the United Kingdom in the next sixty years, but that by careful treatment it might be got rid of in the next thirty years.

No discovery of the century equals in importance to the human family the recognition of consumption as a contagious and curable disease. With something like the fatalism that curses eastern countries, the people of the west were long content to regard consumption as the one disease against which it were useless to cope. The victim was usually sent away to the mountain when too late and returned home in time to die. He was regarded as one marked by nature to perish at the noon of life. But now the erroneous idea that the disease is hereditary and not to be baffled, has been rejected entirely. In the blood there can be nothing more than a predisposition to lung trouble, and even when this exists and declares itself, there is no reason why the disease should win if the patient is withdrawn from unhealthy surroundings and treated scientifically as to diet and exercise.

Families have been wiped out who might have been saved if the houses they lived in had been burned down. There are doctors who say that smallpox and consumption, in its fatal stages, are the two diseases above all others in which the patients should be removed to isolation hospitals.

Mrs. Brown—I must be going back to the city at once, I've had three letters from my husband in two days, Mrs. Gray—Why you poor dear! I know just how you feel. Two would be suspiciously attentive—but three! I really am afraid he has been doing something very reprehensible.

ENGLISH WOMEN.

The total number of women over 18 years old employed in the factories and workshops of the British Islands is about 500,000, of whom 11 per cent belong to trades unions.

Wife—O John! I was shopping at Joblotz's to-day, and I saw just the sweetest thing there— Husband, diplomatically—Yes. That's a great scheme of Joblotz to have mirrors all through his store.

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