

Items and Articles of Special Interest to Our Farmers

MAN IN HIS RELATIONS TO ANIMALS

To the majority of people, the animals that are worth while, are the domestic animals—the animals that are of direct and evident benefit to man. Some would go so far as to claim equal rights for the wild game animals, and then they would stop. Some birds they consider harmless and amusing; others, as the hawks, owls, and a few others should be declared outlaws with a price on their heads. Snakes, frogs and toads of all descriptions are fit to be seen only in delirium tremens. Insects are man's natural enemies, they say, destroying their crop, injuring the stock, and making themselves a general nuisance. They have perhaps heard it said that every living thing has its use in the world, and they have eugened their brains to find a use for the snakes, the hawks, and the multitude of insects that infest the land.

There are other people who look to certain classes of these despised animals and see in them the culmination of all that is good. It is a most difficult thing to get one of the so-called lovers of birds to imagine that one of their pets could do any wrong. They claim that any animal that tends to interfere with the lives of these birds should be exterminated.

It is not our intention in this article to make friends with any class but rather to endeavor to find uses for all the despised members of the animal kingdom. There is a wonderful interrelation existing between all the orders of the animal kingdom. There is a certain equilibrium established and if we tend to obliterate any single factor, the whole balance will be thrown out.

Shelford in his "Animal Communities," says: "That birds save the harvests of every season is believed by many. The student of mammals is equally sure that certain mammals are the balance wheel, while the herpetologist is convinced of the importance of the snakes, and the entomologist's economic world turns about predatory and parasitic insects and spiders. The fact is, that each view, even thus extremely stated, contains its elements of truth. The whole truth is hardly known. Each animal is dependent upon many others. The dependencies are so numerous that it is necessary to isolate particular animals, and construct them into a society of real but limited relations

for the purposes of discussion. Still there are a few things that we can be reasonably sure of. The first is that we cannot interfere with any animals or the habitats of any animals without interfering with many others. The second is that all animals are of some economic importance. The third, that few animals can be said to be either wholly beneficial or wholly noxious, except those reared or preserved for their direct utility, and those directly and perniciously attacking the necessities of man's existence."

"Should we slaughter animals?" As a member of a system of nature in which to kill is the first law, we must answer in the affirmative. Man is the master of all destroyers. Where are the bison, the beaver, the elk, the thousand and one denizens of the primeval forest and prairie? We scarcely walk over a path or lawn without bringing "death" and "suffering" to animals of some sort. The crime of their destruction can be no crime at all, in so far as the destruction is absolutely unavoidable. The wanton and useless destruction of animals not condemned by years of investigation, though probably not forbidden by the example of the animal world, is forbidden by the best sensibilities of every civilized man and woman. When the value of an animal to us is in question, the animal should have the benefit of the doubt, and we should hesitate long before introducing animals of supposed value. Certainly, also, every animal condemned by careful investigators should be destroyed whenever opportunity is presented. Mistaken and sentimental ideas cause the killing of many useful animals and the protection of many noxious ones. The farmer kills snakes and skunks whenever he has the opportunity though they are among the most useful animals. Shrews are master destroyers of mice. Still many people mistake shrews for meadow mice and destroy them. Likewise the housewife kills the house centipede, the enemy of household pests, as a dangerous and a repulsive creature even in the absence of any knowledge of the questionable charge that it bites young infants. Mistakes are not wholly confined to uninitiated individuals. Misjudgment by the officials of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, possibly influenced by the sentiment of Longfellow's mistaken poem on the "Birds of Killingsworth" brought about one of the

first official introductions of the English sparrow."

No animal exists as an independent unit. We cannot think of one animal to the exclusion of all else. The study of the interdependence of the different animals offers many intricate problems, nevertheless every student of nature, and every farmer should possess at least an elementary knowledge of some of the relations existing between the various members of the animal kingdom and the ultimate dependence of all life upon the vegetable kingdom.

Each Province issues a set of Game Laws. In these we read that it is unlawful to kill certain birds at any time; other birds may be killed at stated seasons; others again, the outlaws of the bird kingdom, may be killed at any time in any manner. The same applies to certain of the mammals. Nowhere do we find any law for the protection of the garter snake, the toad, the frog, or certain insects. It is generally considered that the last group are all noxious, and as such should be killed wherever seen. We maintain that the public should be instructed as to the benefits of these despised animals. Let them learn the difference between a noxious and a beneficial insect. Make it as much a crime to kill a bat or a dragon fly as it is to kill an insect-eating worm.

TREATMENT OF HORSES WHICH SUFFER FROM INFLUENZA

The recent epidemic of Spanish Influenza which has caused so much loss of human life has raised the question as to whether the lower animals are subject to this disease. They are not. Horses, however, suffer from an influenza which frequently proves fatal. The following is a good description of the effect of influenza upon horses.

In influenza you first notice the horse exhibiting depression. He does not pay attention to surrounding objects. Chills and shivers appear. The animal trembles as if shivering with cold. Coat becomes dry and rough. Temperature in the first stages exceedingly high running from 105 to 107. As disease advances the horse becomes listless, shows marked depression, stands with head hanging down, eyes become swollen, tears run from the inner canthus of eye over face. Respirations become accelerated

to 35 and 40 to the minute. Pulse beats from 60 to 80 to the minute. When walking the animal staggers. The visible mucous membranes of the eye are first highly injected, or of a deep red color. Later on they assume a saffron or yellowish hue. For the first two or three days, sometimes longer, the appetite is greatly impaired, animal refusing to eat entirely. Later on he begins to nibble and eat slowly when the acute symptoms have somewhat subsided.

Following the fever, watery swellings appear under the abdomen, and the limbs become stocked. The nostrils discharge, which is first of a serious, watery nature, later becomes thick, yellow and glutinous. A cough is invariably present, and if dry and suppressed, it indicates the lungs and pleura are affected. If the disease runs a favorable course, which takes from two to three weeks, the various symptoms abate, fever diminishes, swellings disappear, normal appetite returns, mucous membranes assume their normal pink color, and the animal regains flesh rapidly. If the disease terminates unfavorably, the following complications have ensued which affect the different organs of the body.

If the lungs and pleura are affected you have pleura-pneumonia with all the attendant symptoms of these two diseases. When the intestines are involved, extensive diarrhoea occurs. Affections of the brain produce stupor and spells of violence. Pericarditis, or inflammation of the heart coverings, is a common sequel which causes death from heart failure.

If influenza occurs in one's stables the affected animals may be greatly assisted towards recovery by the use of serum and the healthy animals in the same stable should also receive injections of the same remedy. A number of reliable drug manufacturers supply serum for this specific purpose, costing about 25 cents per dose, retail. An effective treatment is to give the sick animal a hypodermic injection of a minimum of 2 C.C. followed a few days later by twice this quantity and ten days later by about three times the original dose. The needle of the hypodermic should be sterilized each time before being used. A simple way of doing it is to hold the needle in the flame of a lighted match. The successive injections of serum should be made at different places in the animal's neck.

The serum treatment is recommended particularly for stabled animals where the disease has appeared, and there is no necessity for a wide spread use of the serum among healthy animals. For Equine Influenza, unlike Spanish Influenza, is local rather than epidemic, although it is highly infectious.

HAY MEASUREMENTS

In response to an enquiry, the Weekly Free Press gives the following rule for measuring hay which may prove of interest to our readers:

In estimating the quantity of hay in a stack by measurement, multiply together the figures representing the length, width and height of the stack, and divide the product by the number of feet in a ton. Where the hay is well packed, 450 or 460 cubic feet will make a ton; in case the hay is not well settled, approximately 500 cubic feet. It may also be observed that the kind of grass or clover which has been put into the stack will have a bearing on the fact used in determining the quantity. Timothy hay or prairie hay will pack more closely than clover hay. In the case of timothy, use the 450 to 460 mentioned above; clover, 500 cubic feet to the ton.

FARM GARDENS

A visitor to Saskatchewan from one of the fertile Middle Western States recently expressed his surprise at the paucity of the average farm garden in this country. He could not understand why more advantage was not taken in this regard of our matchless garden-soil. He pointed out that it was almost a crime that the farm dinner table was not garnished with fruits and vegetables from the garden patch. Other people share his surprise. It is a fact that with splendid conditions for the growing of almost all the common vegetables and many of the berry fruits little has been done in this direction on the prairie farms. To give one concrete example rhubarb may be grown with success on almost every farm in the country, and yet how seldom we see it.

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SEED GRAIN.

The problem of securing good seed grain for the 1919 seeding is somewhat difficult to solve. By order of the Grain Commission the Interior Storage Elevator at Moose Jaw had instructions to take all the No. 1 Northern that came to it from the west up to 500,000 bushels to be retained for seed for distribution, back to farmers in the district where there had been crop failure. On October 25 the manager of the elevator informed us that he had practically this amount in store. So far as wheat is concerned there will be no difficulty in supplying the highest grade of seed for 1919.

Not so with the oat supply, however. It is estimated that 1,000,000 bushels will be required and on the 25th of October only 30,000 had been received. The trouble with oats is that where crops have been good, especially in the older settled districts, wild oats are so prevalent that the standard for seed oats cannot be attained. Even farmers who have good oat crops want to buy their seed, so as to get rid of the wild oats. Farmers are learning to sow oats intended for seed on clean summer fallow. They do not, therefore, want to sow their own seed for the clean summer-fallow would again become polluted with wild oats. Farmers have learned that wild oats is one of the worst weeds with which they have to contend. The problem of securing seed oats for 1919 is not yet solved.

ASTONISHING FIGURES ABOUT SHEEP

The Grain Growers' Guide is the authority for the following facts about sheep:

The world's sheep stock has decreased by 54,000,000 head since the war began.

The sheep supply of the United States has decreased by 3,000,000 head in the last five years.

Canada's sheep population has dwindled by over 200,000 head since 1914.

Australia's sheep supply has dwindled by several million head on account of drought.

Breeding ewes are not going to go lower; they are very liable to go higher in the next few months.

The exports of mutton from Canada during August, 1917, increased by nearly 50,000 pounds over the corresponding month of 1916.

The exports of meat from the United States for the year ended June 30, 1916, amounted to 1,339,193,000 pounds compared with a three-year ante bellum average of 493,848,000 pounds.

These exports went chiefly to the Allies, whose capital stock of animals has decreased by 33,000,000 head since the war started.

FEEDING POULTRY FOR EGGS.

It is possible to double the egg yield of a flock of hens and actually save feed at the same time if the hens are properly cared for and fed the same ordinary grains used now but furnished them in correct proportions, amounts and proper manner.

The food administration of the United States government finds more eggs must be produced. To that end, last spring, an embargo against selling hens for meat consumption was placed in effect for several weeks. It is hoped every owner of poultry will now realize the need of conserving grain by furnishing their hens only such food as really constitutes a balanced egg making ration. By this we mean a quantity and mixture of such available grains and foods which the hens can manufacture into an equal number of egg yolks and egg whites.

Hens do better when provided a variety of feed and some hard, sharp grit to help grind it. Lime from which egg shells are made is also necessary. This is best provided by keeping a supply of ground oyster shell in a box or hopper. A large portion of an egg is water. Large egg yields cannot be obtained without ample pure, fresh water.

To the Farmers of Western Canada

There is considerable low grade grain throughout the West this year and farmers who have this class of grain as well as those who have only fair to good should bear in mind that it will be to their advantage to ship to us as our long experience in the grain business and special connections enable us to get for the shipper the very highest possible prices for his grain and the best premiums that are being paid. Grain can also be sold on sample and, if the shipper wishes it, we are well equipped to handle it in this way.

While we are not infallible, we feel that we are in a position to give our customers the best advice as to when to sell and all their grain will be wanted, and wanted badly this year therefore don't sell on street but ship your own grain.

Do not let the fact of your having to load through an elevator stop you from shipping to us. The Grain Act distinctly states that the Elevator Companies must ship grain to whom they are ordered. (See Grain Act, Sec. 140.)

McBEAN BROS.

GRAIN EXCHANGER, WINNIPEG. 25th September, 1918.

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ALLIES AGREE ON PRICES FOR ARGENTINE CEREALS

BUENOS AYRES, Feb. 7. — The representatives of Great Britain, France and Italy today signed with Julio Moreno, acting minister of finance, the cereal convention which for some time has been under negotiations. The foreign representatives declined to affix their signatures to the convention if it provided for a fixed quantity of cereals of a minimum price.

Immediately after the document was signed, President Irigoyen issued a decree fixing the prices for exportation of cereals under the convention as follows: Wheat, 12½ pesos per hundred kilos; oats, 7 pesos; linseed, 18 pesos; maize, 6½ pesos.

Under the American treasury exchange rate, the equivalent of the export charges in American gold will be respectively \$5.31, \$2.97, \$7.64 and \$2.76.

GERMANY MENACED BY BOLSHIEVISTS

BERLIN, Feb. 7. — Germany's eastern frontiers are most gravely threatened by the Bolshevists and Poles, according to the Tageblatt, which gives the following report of the situation:

"Strong Bolshevist armies stand before the borders of East Prussia, an irruption of Poles threatens West Prussia and that portion of West Posen which is still in German hands is subject to a renewed Polish menace, which means that the province of Brandenburg is also in danger.

"Russian soviet troops occupy a line from Libau to Kovno. The fortress of Kovno is not yet in their hands, but the Bolshevists stand directly in front of it and have at their disposal numerous divisions which are held together and led forward by iron discipline. The soldiers' councils no longer play the role in the Bolshevist army that they did at the beginning of the revolution, military authority, on the other hand, is vested with the troops and their leaders.

"The German eighth and tenth armies are retreating before the Soviet troops. The iron division which now, as a result of losses, had melted into the 'iron brigade,' numbering some hundreds of men, is also there.

"Speedy help from dependable volunteer corps ready to oppose the Russians with arms, if required, is absolutely necessary. The same can be said of the situation in West Prussia."

GERMAN-AUSTRIA CHEERS FOR UNION WITH GERMANY

VIENNA. — During a manifestation here in favor of the union of German-Austria to Germany, Otto Bauer, foreign minister, said that the German government had invited German-Austria to send a plenipotentiary to a new commission being formed in Germany to replace the old federal council. The plenipotentiary he said, would have only a consultative voice for the present. Minister Bauer concluded: "In a short time, German-Austria will form a part of Germany, a part of the great German republic."

The crowd cheered and sang the German national anthem.

Percheron Stallions and Mares

Stallions sold on liberal terms. Mares offered for cash only.
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 Correspondence answered in German.
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ANXIOUS TO JOIN SWITZERLAND

GENEVA. — A plebiscite in the former Austrian districts of Vorarlberg and Tyrol, which adjoin Switzerland on the east, shows that sixty per cent. of the citizens favor a union with Switzerland. It is understood, however, that the Swiss confederation is not anxious to add another canton, especially Austrian, and is likely to refuse the request.

DECLARES GERMANY WILL SEEK REVENGE IN RUSSIA

PARIS, Feb. 8. — The former Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovich, a brother-in-law of the former Russian emperor, who has arrived in Paris, as he declares, "not for political purposes, but to make known the truth about Russia," says in an interview in the Matin that the allies must beware of Germany in Russia.

"France has every reason to save Russia," he declared. "If you do not intervene now, be sure that Germany will intervene in her own time. Beware of Germany!"

"That people which is now at your mercy hides within itself a hate which will find its first revenge in Russia."
 "A league of nations or a society of peoples is much talked of. It remains to be seen if the nations will not have dealt themselves a mortal blow by hesitating too long to cleanse the Russian sore which threatens to contaminate the whole world."

DRAWBACKS IN IRON DEPOSITS OF LORRAINE

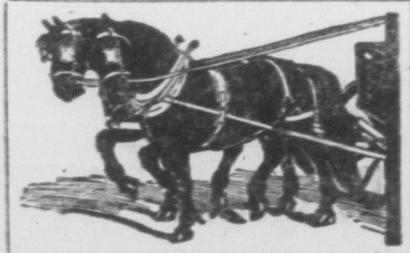
BERLIN, Feb. 6. — The reoccupation of Alsace and Lorraine has returned to France enormous iron deposits which, under proper development would make France one of the largest iron producing countries in Europe. However, France has not enough coal or coke for this development. Before the war, France operated most of her furnaces with coke imported from Germany, much of it particularly in the Briey and Longwy districts.

DEPORTING BOLSHIEVICS

LONDON, Feb. 8. — The government is quietly arresting and deporting "undesirable aliens who are believed to be Bolshevist propagandists in Great Britain, according to the Daily Sketch, which says that several have recently been sent out of the country, including M. Soernus, a Russian violinist, who has been touring South Wales and who is alleged to have been interspersing his recitals with Bolshevist propaganda work.

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