

About Co-Operative Pork Packing South American Competition in Cattle Raising —Poultry Notes.

A subscriber in Western Ontario asks for information regarding the cost of erecting and operating a co-operative pork packing establishment. It would be advisable to erect one in his locality. It is very difficult to give definite estimates as to the cost of buildings, etc., and the amount of capital required to successfully operate one. To start on a scale that would allow for growth and expansion, would require at least from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for plant and equipment, and then it would be safe to have a working capital of several thousand dollars in addition. We know of one or two instances in the eastern provinces where a pork factory was started on a capital of \$10,000 for building and equipment, but we think this is too small, and only admits of a very small business being done. We would advise all parties contemplating erecting pork packing factories, whether they are co-operative or not, to visit some of the establishments already in operation. Such a visit would enable them to understand the nature of the business and the magnitude of the undertaking.

As to the advisability of erecting co-operative pork factories there is some difference of opinion. One very important advantage which the co-operative packing establishment has over the large establishment is that the big centres of the industry are located in a large extent the kind of hogs produced by the farmer. A co-operative factory drawing its supply from a district which is comparatively few miles distant would be able to educate the farmers in that section as to the kind of hogs to raise and how to feed it so as to make the best use of the available Wiltshire bacon. This the packer in the large centres who is separated a long distance from where he gets his supply can do only in a general way. But a co-operative factory with the stock held largely by farmers in the district would have a great advantage in being able to come directly in touch with every hog producer in the locality.

But it is well to consider the question from every point of view, whether a co-operative or any other kind of pork packing establishment is contemplated, it is absolutely necessary that some skilled expert should be secured who is thoroughly conversant with the selection and killing process, and the making and curing of bacon suited to the export trade. The erection of buildings and the management of the whole should be placed under the control of such an individual, who, as is the case with skilled labor, will have to be paid a good salary for his services. Where large capital is invested, such as would be required to operate a pork packing establishment more than a person or persons of more than the average business ability should be connected with the concern to overlook its finances. There are no doubt farmers in every district quite capable of looking after this part of the business if they would give their time to it. To finance well requires special training and careful attention, and unless that could be given care should be exercised in investing large capital. The buying and selling is also an important part of such a business, and unless the markets are properly followed, and the quality of the hogs is likely to result.

As far as we are able to judge we do not think there would be much difficulty in disposing of the product in Great Britain so long as the quality was right and the very best Wiltshire hogs were exported. But when the supply must be regular, and when a customer is secured the factory must be in a position to send forward a certain quantity every week or fortnight, as the case may be. And just here, for a time at least, will be one of the great difficulties in successfully carrying on a pork packing establishment where the supply of hogs is to be drawn from a certain limited district. A factory that has a killing capacity of 1,000 hogs a week is not considered very large, and this would require a capital of about \$50,000 for buildings and equipment. But we are very doubtful at the present time if there is one single county in Ontario in a position to supply every week (1,000 hogs) for a year. Double this number each week, however, is not beyond the capacity of every county if the farmers make a regular business of it, but this will take a year or two to bring about. Of course in a district where a packing establishment were erected, the supply of hogs would quickly increase, and it would only be necessary to wait a year or two if conditions were favorable, till a sufficient quantity of hogs could be secured.

Recent experiments conducted at Guelph, show that whey and skim-milk combined with other feeds make a good winter and summer ration. This being so, pork packing and dairying should go hand in hand. Where both winter and summer dairying are made a specialty of, it should not be difficult to get a sufficient supply of hogs in a comparatively small area to keep a good-sized packing establishment going. Ten or a dozen good cheese factories or creameries in close proximity, as in the case in Oxford or Perth counties, if running all the year round, making cheese during the summer and butter during the winter, or but-ter both winter and summer, could supply a good share of the food necessary to raise sufficient hogs to make a pork packing establishment in the locality a success.

Co-operation, however, may be made useful to the farmer who raises hogs without investing money in a co-operative packing establishment. A co-operative selling of their supply of hogs would help farmers to get better value for their products. The plan would be for the farmers in a locality to co-operate and ship their hogs direct to the packer and do away with the middleman. If any country farmer would co-operate in this way, an ear-tag with the farmer's name or a number on could be

provided and fastened to each lot of hogs. When the hogs arrived at the packer's each farmer could be paid what his hogs were worth. In this way the quality of the hogs, by count, as it does not where a middleman buys any and every kind at the same price. We would like to see this plan tried, as we believe it would be the great chief value and enable every farmer to get better value for his hogs than the present plan affords.—Farming.

SOUTH AMERICAN COMPETITION

In another volume a correspondent points out that the reason why Canadians are not able to compete with the people of Argentina in grain-growing and the export cattle trade may be due to the difference in the monetary systems in vogue in the two countries. Argentina has a silver currency, while Canada has a gold currency. While this is true, we are at a loss to understand just how such a condition of affairs would enable one country to produce beef cheaper than the other. The export cattle trade of Argentina is with Great Britain, where a gold standard of currency prevails, and all cattle or any other product shipped there would have to be sold on the gold basis, or, in other words, for the value of the animal or product in English currency when it is landed. This being so, it would not make any difference what kind of a currency was in vogue in Argentina, the price paid in England being governed altogether by the supply and demand.

The cost of producing beef or any other farm products depends nearly altogether upon the cheapness of the land and its ability to produce an abundance of cheap food. Argentina seems to be specially favored in this particular. There are large runs where cattle can graze all the year round at very little cost besides this, corn and other fodders can be produced at a very low cost, so that the expense of producing good beef is very much reduced. The general plan followed by feeders there is to allow the steers to graze until within a few months of the time when they should be ready for export. They are then placed in stables and fed a ration made up largely of corn; silos being in use in many parts of the country. It will thus be seen that the South American feeder has a great advantage over his brother feeder on the northern half of this continent.

EGGS AND POULTRY.

The keeping of large numbers of poultry of suitable kinds should be a means for greatly increasing the revenue from Canadian farms. They form a class of live stock which has been too much neglected. The keeping is included in the system of farming, so far as the live stock branch is concerned, which has been designated "small outcrops." Though singly small in size, they can become in the aggregate producers of large revenues. They are not merely to be counted as gatherers up of fragments, utilizers of odd scraps and cleaners of waste grain. They may be also a class of live stock that will thus be seen to be profitable in themselves, may be fed with a good profit on the transaction.—Prof. Robertson's report.

EGGENTRIC CLUBS OF THE WORLD

Facts About Some of the Oldest Organizations Extant.

One of the queerest clubs in the world is the Lazy Club, of Vienna. It is said to have a membership of 100, and there are no dues or contributions for admission. No member of this organization can do anything for a living, and the slightest suspicion of work that rests on a member is equal to expulsion.

There is a curious society in London called the Crabbed Club. It is made up of men who have met great disappointments in life, and the club meets once a month. At these times the members are not allowed to repeat their hard luck stories, but, on the contrary, form a merry company and endeavor for that time to forget their woes.

The list of eccentric clubs was swelled last year by the addition of the Don't-take-off-your-hat Club, of Wehlan, Germany. The members who fear catching cold are absolved from the obligation of putting on their hats in the winter months under the penalty of a severe fine.

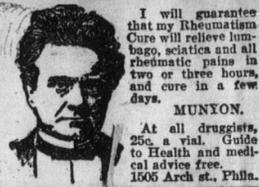
In Philadelphia there is an Anti-baby Kissing Society, where the hygienic crusade against kissing is being carried on. The members of this club boast of an Anticigarette Club, formed by young women who bind themselves to have nothing whatever to do with any young man who smokes cigarettes.

A new feature in clubs is recorded in New York. It is the Dyspeptic Club, and the test of eligibility for membership is a doctor's certificate that the applicant is suffering from a weak stomach. The object of this organization is to promote cheerfulness among dyspeptics and to furnish to the members the latest results of science in treating indigestion. The President of the Dyspeptic Club is said to have a remedy that has never failed to help sufferers, but none but club members know what it is.—New York Despatch.

MANUFACTURING EGGS.

To know what ingredients are required we must examine the egg itself. It weighs on an average 1.70 grains, and consists of three parts, shell, white and yolk. The shell, weighing 100 grains, is merely carbonate of lime. The white, weighing 600 grains, is one of the purest forms of what we call albumen. The yolk, weighing 400 grains, consists of oil, albumen, phosphate of lime and traces of sulphur, iron, etc. In fact, an egg contains everything essential to the manufacture of a chick. All the materials required for making muscle, bone, feathers, etc., must be in the egg, for in incubation nothing is added, and everyone who eats an egg for his breakfast eats animal food—eats an embryo chick, more nutritious, or at least more easily assimilated food, than so much weight

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of beefsteak. Of course the production of such rich food must make heavy drafts on the hen, and no mill can turn out a rich egg unless the hen is kept well supplied.

These several ingredients in the egg the hen gets from what she eats and gets it from the organic matter she eats. Get by its various forms she uses to build her food and not to build up her body or to make eggs out of. The oil, or fatty substance needed is found in greatest proportion in seeds, chiefly in corn. The albumen, which is a nitrogenous substance, is found also in grain to a limited extent, more in wheat than in corn, and in still larger proportions in wheat bran and the germ of wheat. The chief source of albumen in winter feed is clover hay, milk and meat. The latter is furnished in the form of meat meal, canned refuse meat, green cut hogs, etc. The shell material is found in all the grains, chiefly in corn. The chief source of it is contained also in milk and in the grasses and clover. In summer, clover, green grass, vegetables, hogs, worms, seeds and the cultivated grasses furnish the egg factors with successful results to hens with free range. In winter, much of this supply is cut off and must be supplied by the owner of the hen if he expects business to prosper.

Incidentally it should be mentioned that about three-fourths of the contents of an egg consists of water, and in this the substances named above are suspended. It will at once appear that water is essential to egg-making.—Farming Journal.

A New Year's Dream.

In the cozy depths of an arm-chair I throw, On New Year's Eve, I mused alone, "Welladay!" thought I, "and deary me!" This world is a fairly good world, I own. But how much better indeed 'twould be, If, putting aside his natural pride, Each living thing in the world so wide Would honestly try his simple best To be obliging to all the rest! With a little more kindness and sweet civility, Courtesy, patience and amiability— Ah, welladay, and deary me, What a highly agreeable world 'twould be!

Then softly faded the firelight's gleam, And I fell asleep—or so it would seem— And dreamed this very remarkable dream: I stood, methought, in the same old world, With the same old ocean round it curled; But a singular state of things I found, As I rubbed my eyes and looked around, Each man and woman, each chick and child, Whenever I met them, bowed and smiled, And answered my questions before they were asked, And with my errands their memories tasked; And I saw, with an equal zest, Was done the same for all the rest! Such consideration and thoughtful zeal, Such delicate tact!—I could not feel, From the President, bland on his lofty seat, To the dear little cricket that chirped at my feet, There was not a thing in that land But lived to oblige. With the tenderest care, The ragman muffled his bells, for fear They might awaken a sleeper near, And the newsboys called the "Times" and in tones like a cooing dove's—almost, The plumber offered the pipes to mend, "Just as a favor, to please a friend." The lawyer begged that his little bill, Unpaid, as it happened, be unpaid still, And the worthy parson, considerate man, Finished his sermon before he began. The cook made tarts each day in the year, And nobody thought it the least bit queer, The kind policeman in all the parks Just stayed to see that the boys—such larks!—Kept on the grass; and the teachers Gave only as children know is right—The shortest lessons and highest marks. The printers sent out, in the kindest way, A new set, Nicholas every day; And the editors always took the rhymes That the poets sent at all possible times. To please the fisherman down by the brook, The fish came swimming to catch the hook; The oysters smilingly opened their shells; The buckets sprang merrily up in the wells; And the little dogs gathered the downy bread, And helped the chickens to scratch for food. The currants and blackberries picked themselves, And stood, all canned, on the pantry shelves; The sun sat willingly up all night To cheer the earth, when it needed light. The babies their natural cries suppressed, For fear of breaking their parents' rest; And the dear little, kind little, sweet little boys Refrained from making the slightest noise. But quietly played with their harmless toys, And washed their hands without being told, To please their mothers, as good as gold. The breeze came blowing in gentle gales Whenever it was wanted to fill the sails; The printers stayed in the unlocked cell; And the mice sat up on the balcony rails. To let the kittens play with their tails; And the old cats stilled their nightly wails; And the little fish danced to tickle the whaler's; And the brown hawk hurried to warn the quail; And the butterflies loitered to help the snails; And the hammers were gentle and kind to the nails; And the mops took care not to scratch the parlor; And Princeton's ball gracefully yielded to Yale's; And here the wonderful story falls, For I breathless woke. It was New Year's day, The world wagged on in the same old way, "It was only a dream!" said I, "deary me!" But I'll be obliging as I can be, And the world may be better for that.

Beautiful New Year's Gifts.

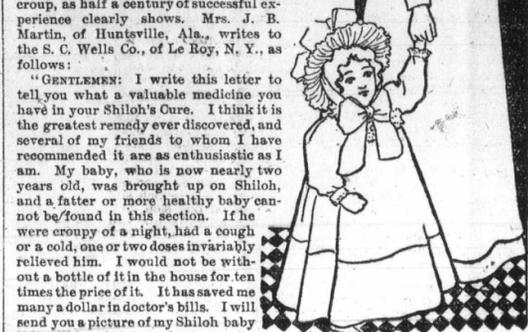
During the balance of this week there will be offered at Garvie's drug store, No. 32 James street north, about ninety dozen purses and pocket-books at 25c. each. These are of the latest styles, and many are sold by department and other high-priced stores at 50c. We also offer a large variety of better quality of pocket-books at low prices; also a large stock of penknives suitable for presents.

There are more persons more solicitous about the preservation of rank than those who have no rank at all.—Hemstone.

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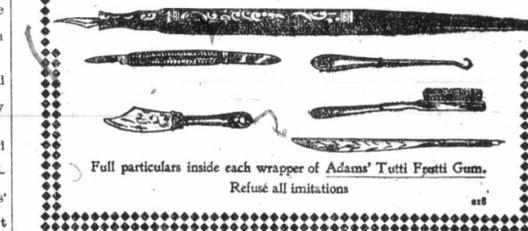
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