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BY FLOOD

Special to THE COLONIST.

HEN TRACKS, BY NYE.

William Gives Some Directions About
the Festive Layer—Hens
DifferFrom Human Beings in That They
Have no Teeth—The Case of a
Mad Hen.

(Copyright, 1892, by Edgar W. Nye.)

There has recently been placed in my hands a volume entitled "Twenty-five Years in the Poultry Yard." I bought the book thinking that it was full of hair-breadth escapes and thrilling experiences. I was misled regarding the work, for I was led to believe that it was something like "Field, Dungen and Escape," or "How I Put Down the Rebellion and Boarded Myself."

The book is extremely tame reading, though written in a neat and grammatical manner. "Twenty-five Years in a Poultry Yard" is no doubt a valuable work, but those who purchase it thinking that it resembles "Twenty Years in Congress" will shed many a bitter tear before they get through with it. Last evening I read aloud to my family and to a titled nobleman from Kimmie Kinnick, Wm., who is visiting this summer while waiting for an opening in Dr. Fletcher's yard at this place, a chapter on "Frosted Comb and Wattles," also one entitled "Inducements for a Hen to Sit." This part of the volume is of interest only to those who feel an interest in such things.



THE HEN WAS MAD.

Mr. Howells would like the realism which the author introduces into the description of how to deal with a hen in trying to get her to sit and remain seated long enough to become a parent. The author states that a warm stove lid when shoved under the average hen will almost immediately induce her to sit down and take her things off.

To ascertain whether the hen really feels a tendency to sit one should watch her closely, and especially observe her temperature. Induce the hen to take about eight inches of a physician's glass thermometer into her throat for two to five minutes. Do not say anything funny to her while thus arranged, for the night laugh and thus break the thermometer with her teeth.

Feel the pulse of the hen at the same time. If the pulse—which you will find just over the instep—is rapid or irregular, coupled with a leaden eye, coldness of the bridge of the nose, mottled patches, together with acidity of the crop on rising in the morning, fretfulness, peevishness or sudden flashes of heat and cold, there is a tendency toward a sedentary life. Purchase a sitting egg almost as expensive as a running egg. The Indian Game I have found to be a good general purpose fowl, furnishing an afternoon's amusement on a rainy day and a chicken pie for dinner at the same price. The Indian Game at twelve weeks of age weighs three to four pounds, which is mostly breast and forearm. One gets good results in a short time, and unless rearing fowls for a boarding house the Indian Game, aside from being a fearless and brave fowl, is excellent for all around entertainment both before and after death.

Some like the Derbyshire Redcaps, some the Black Minorcas. Others like the Cochins, the Marshall Niel and the Early Rose, but the Indian Game, as I say, for a general purpose hen, seems "to meet my demands" as a quick grower, prompt and careful layer, a good mother and the nucleus of as fine a gravy as I ever laid a lip over. Her husband is a quiet but manly fowl, with shoulders well thrown back, dark flashing eyes, a good half breed, and in death, with his broad, tender bosom padded with summer savory and a dash of onion, he makes those who cluster about him almost forget the sorrowful circumstances under which they are most together.

The hen of this species is also obliging and cheery in the matter of laying. While some hens hang back and require a good deal of coaxing, claiming that they have come away and forgotten their notes and that they do not expect to be called upon, the Indian Game hen cheerily asks what sort of an egg you want, and while you are getting your sherry ready she makes the arrangements for the egg.

Sherry and egg, or egg and sherry, may be made by a very slight effort, and either will be found nutritious to a remarkable degree. Physicians unite in the opinion that this wonderful co-operation between operation, as one may say of man and the hen—to make a soothing, nutritious and easily digested food for the invalid is one of the most wonderful of nature's great phenomena.

The hen differs from man largely in her failure to grow teeth. Man succeeds in raising from two to five crops of teeth by natural means, and Mr. Foster, a friend

of mine who has handled teeth all his life, tells me that in the realm of artificial teeth there are 1,800 different models of teeth to fit and match the mouths of those who have outlived their original teeth. There are twenty-five standard shades of artificial teeth and 6,000 variations in constant use by the oldest and most reliable dental house in America.

This is a fact, and I have been to a good deal of trouble to look up this matter, as I know that even the most careful reader would like to know about it. Many of these shades are remembered by number by the trained salesman, but to remember the whole 6,000 would be out of the question.

It may be of interest to know that these large tooth works at Philadelphia make a perfectly black tooth for use in those countries where the teeth are weakened by the people who are themselves as the same question of society. American people lead the world in the manufacture of teeth and supply every quarter of the globe with good dentistry. The success of our American dentists is in the mobility of all nations.

In Paris our American minister is brought into constant social conflict with an American dentist from Michigan, and one minister resigned because this dentist played against one of his reception in Paris with a musical of his own. In London, an American dentist was the only American guest at the marriage of the Duke of Fife and the grand-daughter of the queen. His name was Dr. Evans, and he showed me the card of invitation one Sunday upon the Thames and afterward gave me a bite of the wedding cake. When I tell you that Minister Lincoln and I stood outside making a willow whistle in the churchyard and waiting for Dr. Evans to come out and give us points on the wedding, and when I tell you that Mr. Lincoln, Consul New and I, three men whose names are household words, stood at the gateway with our dinners in a large tin pail and saw Dr. Evans, our American dentist, coming out and laughing on the arm of the queen, even going so far as to unhitch her team from the fence and drive it around to the front door and help Victoria in, you will agree with me that the dentist of our own fair land is no slouch.

For certain Asiatic countries this big dental house makes a pure white tooth. This is really as odd looking as the black, for no human-tooth is pure white. It is as ghastly as a perfectly white skin. The factory makes one grade of blue white, or pearl white, in this country for use among the people who die their hair a dead black or wear fawn skin wigs. Elderly orphans wear these teeth, and smile them together while smiling on those they love. It is sad to see these frosted cake teeth nestling away among the deep dyed whiskers of a decayed old bachelor or a new-made widower. These teeth are also used for gnashing purposes.

Teeth made recently are filled with gold in order to make them look more lifelike, and so artificial teeth can be made to fool the closest scrutinizer. A dentist does not listen very closely to what you say, but as you talk he watches very carefully to see what sort of teeth you wear, just as the bootblack keeps his eye all the time on the feet of the people who go by him.

Mr. Foster was very polite to me while I was in Alaska and tendered me the hospitality of his horse. He has a horse that has outlived eleven grooms. He came very near outliving me.

The hen is a biped, indigenous to all temperate countries, and often tempts people who wish to make a livelihood without heavy work to go into the egg



CAME FOR A MUCH NEEDED REST.

business. Also into the growth of broilers for the New York market. Do not try to raise eggs and broilers in a flat for the other tenants might not like it. Hens need room. If you crowd your hens they will die off by the score.

This is my third effort in the direction of supplying the metropolitan market with eggs and broilers. Generally the metropolitan market is kind enough to supply me.

I used to have a very handsome hen-pen and a small book regarding hen culture, and on a still day, after reading extensively from the old Greek poets, I might have been seen temporizing with a sorrel hen and trying to get her to try sedentary pursuits. In the fall I had hatched, by means of my new incubator and the aid of friends, among them the teacher who boarded at our house, eighty-seven dead little downy chicks, at an expense of \$183. I had just figured up the cost and assets when one of my incubators in the dead of night was knocked over by a colored man who had formerly been my butler and the henry set fire to. By this means I lost my entire stock of work and buildings. What my ex-butler was doing around the incubator at the dead of night I do not know. He says that he came there to be where he could pray by himself, but I do not believe it, and I find that there are many

others in our country who hesitate also to accept this theory.

I had one hen that began to sit on a common humming top that belonged to one of the boys, and other hens came and laid an egg a day for six weeks in the same nest, so that while the bald-faced hen was striving till she got purple in the face to hatch out a whole toy and notion store she got a large collection of eggs from other hens and all of different ages. The result was that she long she began to turn out a chick per day for me to be a father to until I had eighty-three of them to bring up on the bottle, and she still stung with the eggs which had been contributed by others.

She kept on until I saw a change in her countenance. Her eye was entirely different. She did not know me any more.

Reason had deserted its throne. She no longer recognized friends. The mental strain was too much for her. We bound her and took her away and put her in a cell with another hen who had hatched all summer over a hot croquet ball while eggs were 37¢ cents per dozen, and these she shrieked the hours away.

The two lived on for a month or two, but after a short visit from a man who came to our house to obtain such necessities in accordance with the advice of his physicians, it was noticed that they had gone somewhere, and the cook tells me that they figured on the menu one evening while he was here.

I said the witness, apparently searching in the depths of his memory for facts, "when he rides a trotting horse, he trots, and when he rides a galloping horse he gallops, when—"

"I want to know what gets the defendant usually takes, fast or slow."

"Wal," said the witness, "when his company rides fast, he rides fast, and when his company rides slow, he rides slow."

"I can't know, sir," the lawyer said, very much exasperated, and very stern now, "how Mr. So-and-So rides when he is alone."

"Wal," said the witness, more slowly and meditatively than ever, when he was alone, I can't tell you, but I don't know."

The questioner ended the cross-examination.

Without a gleam of intelligence, the witness replied: "A-straddle, air."

"No," said the lawyer; "I mean, does he usually walk, or trot, or gallop?"

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popular for a month but not for a whole season. Sleeves are no longer high, so the deformed look that seemed to wedge the head in between the two shoulders is dying away—thank goodness. They are now very wide and the shoulders of the gown are cut longer thus giving a greater and more becoming width at the shoulders. While on the subject of sleeveless gowns, it is noted that the sleeves are being made of a different material to the gown. This is a very economical fashion which commends itself to home dressmakers.

Foulards, Redfern tells us, are the things to wear just now, and those with a border can be made up the most stylishly. He particularly impresses upon us that for trimming on the skirts two rows, and on no account three, is the accepted number. For tennis gowns Redfern this week sends two designs. He says that already ladies are beginning to purchase

them. The first is made of cool grey linen, with a coat-like waist and trimming of striped grey and white linen. The sleeves are very wide but not very high and the fulness of the bodice is set into two bands on the shoulders which are made of the striped material.

The second is made of a light blue material, with a coat-like waist and trimming of striped grey and white linen. The sleeves are very wide but not very high and the fulness of the bodice is set into two bands on the shoulders which are made of the striped material.

The third is made of a light blue material, with a coat-like waist and trimming of striped grey and white linen. The sleeves are very wide but not very high and the fulness of the bodice is set into two bands on the shoulders which are made of the striped material.

The fourth is made of a light blue material, with a coat-like waist and trimming of striped grey and white linen. The sleeves are very wide but not very high and the fulness of the bodice is set into two bands on the shoulders which are made of the striped material.

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of our people who do not eat an egg each day. Granting this to be true, we must face the fact that many other thousands eat from two to four daily, and that eggs enter very largely into the composition of many articles of food which we consume each day, such as cakes, pies, salads, coffee, custards and puddings.

Applying the same figures to Canada, and estimating our population at five millions, and eggs at an average price of 20¢ per dozen, if each person in Canada were to eat an egg to-day, there would be 416,666 dozen eggs consumed representing an aggregate value of \$83,333.00. Then if each person in Canada were to eat an egg per day for a year, the consumption would amount to the enormous sum of \$30,416,645.00.

It is the opinion of the largest dealers in table poultry and eggs in New York and Boston, that a constant supply of first class goods, has a tendency to constantly increase the demand, so that the probability of overstocking the market is very remote. Mr. James Rankin, who is probably the largest breeder of market ducks in America, says that years ago when he first went into the business, he had to go to Boston, and almost worry the dealers to buy his ducks, but to-day with a stock of twelve hundred breeding birds, he finds it difficult to fill his orders.

Other large producers bear similar testimony to the demand for choice goods; and commission merchants find no difficulty in placing all that is offered at good prices, but there is no room for poor goods, and no money in it for anybody who handles such stuff; in Canada at the present time there is unfortunately very little else to be had, hence the low prices of dressed poultry.

On the markets of Toronto and Montreal at this season of the year, and you find little else but a lot of miserable scrub hens from one to five years old, the refuse of poultry yards all over the land, too old many of them to lay, and others that lay but very few eggs, and are not worth the trouble of carrying them to market because they are now broody and have ceased to lay; verily these are tooth-sore birds (!) for an epicure.

(To be Continued.)

AN AMERICAN GIRL AT COURT.

I notice that as each woman goes through here she turns her head; surely the Queen can't be there. I will know her by her dress, and I do. On the other side of that doorway the wall is lined with mirrors, and one wouldn't be a woman if she didn't take a last glance at herself before entering the room where the Queen of England sits, writes Mrs. L. B. Walford in the May Ladies' Home Journal.

Before I reach her I see her. I see that good, kind, sweet face that all America knows and honors, and it makes every body else around her seem so little and small. I can't know, sir," the lawyer said, very much exasperated, and very stern now, "how Mr. So-and-So rides when he is alone."

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From THE DAILY COLONIST, June 4.

LAST NIGHT'S MEETING.

The City Council Move in the Matter
of Local Improvement.

Refund of Taxes on Improved Property—The New Ward By-Law.

(Copyright, 1892, by Edgar W. Nye.)

The adjourned regular meeting of the City Council was held in the City Hall, last night. There were present Mayor Beaven, in the chair, and Ald. Hall, Hunter, Lovell, Munn, McKillop, Styles, Humber, Baker, and Bragg.

The minutes of the last meeting were adopted as read, and the Council then proceeded to advertised business.

ALD. LOVELL moved that the Council authorize the City Treasurer to pay the sum of \$27,109.48 to persons who were taxed for improvements during the year 1891. Ald. Munn seconded.—Carried.

ALD. MUNN moved, seconded by Ald. Lovell, that the names of all people who lived in the new city limits and who had paid their taxes, be placed on the municipal voters' list, as soon as the wards had been defined.—Carried.

ALD. HUNTER moved, seconded by Ald. Lovell, that the Council do now go into Committee of the whole for the purpose of considering the application to municipal matters of the Local Improvement Clause of the Municipality Act, 1882.—Carried.

The Council then went into Committee of the whole to discuss the question.

ALD. HUNTER, in introducing the matter, said that the question was a most important one, and that in the discussion of it it would have to be remembered that Victoria was the capital of British Columbia, and the commercial centre of the province.

The Local Improvement system was one that would help the city, and would keep it in its place as the leading commercial city of the province. The scheme was one that put every ratepayer on an equality.

The Aldermen then discussed the advantages of the system, thoroughly explaining its merits and calling attention to the way in which it was worked in other cities in Canada and the United States.

Ald. Lovell supported the remarks of Ald. Hunter, and said that his vote would go with any motion that had the acceptance of the local improvement system as one of its objects.

Ald. McKillop thought that the time had come when the local improvement act should be enforced. There was no doubt that the running of water pipe past property enhanced the value of the property ten per cent, and people should be made to pay in proportion to that extent of improvement. The Aldermen went on, strongly advocating the local improvement system and laying down very strongly the facts as to its indisputable merits.

Ald. Baker pointed out the justice of the principle of the Local Improvement system. Under it every portion of the community would have just what it paid for—no more and no less. The constant stream of applications for improvements in various departments of city work, was continually getting bigger, and the only thing to do was to have the application of the system proposed, and so ably advocated, by Ald. Hunter.

Ald. Baker said that he would agree with neither Ald. Hunter nor Bragg. He did not believe that the city was yet ready for such a system. In many parts of the old limits there were people who had neither travelled nor wooden sidewalks. He would oppose the proposition because he believed it would be unjust to many of the citizens.

Ald. Hunter said that what he would like to see was a main artery sewer built by the city, with a direct tax for sewers levied on the property fronting the system. It was the hardest thing in the world to equalize taxation, and it was not an agreeable thing for anybody to pay taxes.

Ald. Hall supported Ald. Hunter's resolution. He was only surprised that the matter had never been taken up in previous years.

Ald. Styles was in favor of the local improvement system if it were carried out properly, and would cast his vote in favor of it.

Ald. Munn said that the best feature of the proposed scheme was probably that it would relieve the municipal treasury. In many cities the city was the least of its expenses had to be graded and sidewalked before the city councils could accept them, and so far as the first improvement in this way was concerned, the city could not open to the charge of the council expenditure or waste of public money. Besides, the system encouraged competition, and altogether it was as advisable that there could be no doubt of its success if carried out.

The Mayor suggested that the fairest way to deal with the whole matter was to call a public meeting of the citizens and have the subject thoroughly ventilated and discussed.

Ald. Munn moved "That in the opinion of the Council the matter of local improvement is capable of being equitably applied to the City of Victoria."

Ald. Lovell moved that the by-law repealing the Wards By-law, 1890, be now read a second time.—Carried. The Council went into Committee of the Whole to consider the by-law.

The By-law created a new division of the wards, and named them North, Central and South Wards, the Centre ward (formerly Yates street) being a thin strip in the centre of the other two, but later the same value according to assessments.

The committee rose after considering some of the claims, reported progress and asked leave to sit again at a later date.

The by-law to add the collection of water rents and rates in the city was read a second time.

REPORTS.

From the Finance committee, recommending payment of \$8,111.04. Amount ordered paid.

From the Finance committee, asking that their action in paying amount of \$3 be endorsed.—Adopted.

From the Finance committee, reporting payment of \$172.50, on account of School Trustees. Received and adopted.

From the Finance committee, recommending payment of accounts amounting to \$87.27. Amount ordered paid.

From the Finance committee, recom-

mending payment of \$5,759.60 for various accounts. Amount ordered paid.

The committee for the Aged and Infirm recommended William Spence for admission to the Old Folks' Home. The recommendation was adopted.

From the Markets committee, recommending the building of a cattle shed in the market to cost \$500.

The report was received, but nothing was done with the report, as the amount applied for exceeded the estimates.

From the Ponds committee, recommending that the dog catcher be employed for the month of June, at \$30 salary. Received and adopted.

From the Sewerage committee, recommending that the sanitary engineer be instructed to report to the Sewerage commission as to the advisability of extending the main sewer up Broad street to View, and that a new outlet sewer be made into James Bay.

From the street committee, recommending the building of several low drains, the allowances of underground cellars in the new Adelphi building, and other minor improvements.—Adopted.

Report withdrawn on a technicality. The Council then adjourned.

AMERICAN NEWS.

Dr. Parkhurst on His Travels.

NEW YORK, June 1.—Rev. Dr. C. H. Parkhurst and wife sailed, to-day, on the White Star steamer Germania for Liverpool, to spend the summer vacation. The doctor will spend some time in Paris and London, where he will consult prominent social reformers, and inform himself as to their mode of working. A large number of his friends and admirers bade him bon voyage at the pier.

E. S. Steamer Baltimore.

PORT TOWNSEND, June 2.—The U. S. steamer Baltimore, in command of Captain William Whitehead, arrived this afternoon from Astoria at 3:50 o'clock, and dropped anchor. It was the intention to coal here, but finding no facilities, the steamer sailed for Seattle, from where, after filling, she will return here until orders from the navy department in Washington are received. The vessel was boarded immediately upon her arrival by President Bartlett, of the chamber of commerce, and a reception committee of the Key City club, and the courtesies of the city extended to the officers. It is probable that a grand reception and ball will be given the officers upon their return here. The cruiser Charleston is still in the Columbia river, and will not leave for the Sound until the early part of next week.

From Anacortes.

PORT TOWNSEND, June 2.—The residence of Mrs. H. M. Smith, situated about two miles east of this place, was destroyed by fire, this morning. The loss is \$1,000, fully insured. It is stated on good authority that the steamer Hermosa will be taken off this morning, within a few days. The arrangements are nearly perfected by which a stock company here will own a steamer, which will run from here to Seattle.

The Bombs in Difficulty.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 3.—The steamer Bombs was brought into port in tow, this morning. She left here, Wednesday, for Nantamito to load coal, broke her propeller shaft, and was drifting towards the beach near Point Reyes, yesterday noon, when rescued by the Point Loma.

Diplomatic Rumor and Denial.

MONTREY, Cal., June 3.—According to private advice from Romaldo Pacheco, United States Minister to Guatemala, who is well known in this place, is about to displace Minister Ryan as the accredited representative of the United States in Mexico. This change is said to be due to the desire of Secretary of State to have a man who can establish reciprocity with Mexico. The negotiations with Guatemala, which resulted in the adoption of reciprocity by that country, were cleverly managed by Pacheco, who is of Spanish origin and peculiarly adapted for such delicate work. What disposition is to be made of the steamer Bom