

Agricultural

OUR INDEPENDENCE OF UTENSILS.

There seems to be a great mistake on the part of a large percentage of the dairymen in the country in that they consider that what they have to do with, by this we mean utensils, is all that is necessary to secure the production of first-class butter. After repeated failures, they become not only discouraged, but thoroughly disgusted with the whole business, and go on year after year with a kind of "don't care" way of dairying.

What one has to do with plays a very small part in the matter of making a first-class quality, and quantity is not always assured by one process over another. From personal experience and observation of many years, I am satisfied that success not only in regard to quantity but also to quality in the dairy product lies entirely in how you do things.

The first great principles must be purity and cleanliness. These two must apply not only to food and water, but to buildings, and their surroundings, pails and other utensils, the cow and the person who milks her.

Another important thing for both quantity and quality is to do everything just when it should be done. Milking a herd of cows at irregular hours will not only cause a decrease in the flow, but oftentimes is the cause of feverish milk which can never be made into first-class goods. Leaving cream a little too long before churning almost without exception will make an off-flavored butter. To churn cream before it is properly ripened will make a butter that, while it may not when first made show anything very much off in flavor, will in a short time develop flavors that are not found in first-class goods.

Cleanliness cannot be too persistently maintained. Too many dairymen place too much dependence on the strainer and forget that there is much soluble filth which straining will not remove. Salt which has bad odors and specks is too often used, and will spoil what otherwise might have been first-class butter.

These are only a few of many things connected with dairying that must be observed regardless of what one has to do with, if one wants to be assured of first-class goods and top prices.

VALUE OF EARLY CUT HAY.

Save the best early cut hay and other roughage until the latter part of winter and early spring. All practical feeders have observed that farm animals are less likely to make satisfactory gains in the spring months than at any other time of the year. Often they lose flesh unless the very best of care is given. They refuse to eat the usual amount of forage unless it is early cut and of the very best quality. However we have found that by saving the earliest cut hay until the last, the stock will continue to consume the usual amount of food with a relish and also continue to make satisfactory gain. With milch cows the flow will not decrease, as so often happens in spring before the cows can be turned out on good pasture.

Then, too, by feeding the earliest cut hay last, the system of the animal will be in a better condition for making satisfactory gains immediately after being turned out on fresh pastures in spring. Very early cut fodders have a tendency to relax the bowels, consequently the change from dry fodder to fresh pastures will not be a radical change in feed. In the early part of the winter they are in a better condition for consuming the late cut hay and fodder, after being taken off the pasture, where their rations have often been made up of over-ripe and partly dried off grasses. Every practical feeder has long ago learned the advantage of securing all fodder as early as possible after it has gained the required stage of growth, but where a large amount is to be put up, some of it will of necessity become elper than is desirable.

OVERHAUL THE HARNESS.

Now is a good time to overhaul the harness and get it in good shape for the spring. For this work many good farmers have a repair kit with which they can do a great deal of the work themselves. Such an outfit saves its cost many times a year. Go carefully over all your harness, a set at a time, make all the repairs you can yourself, then take what you cannot repair to a saddler. Replace all worn out pieces, with new ones. Now, if not apart, separate each piece of the harness so that it can be handled easily. Soak the pieces in good soapuds, made by dissolving a small quantity of hard soap in just enough water to cover the harness. As soon as the dirt has softened, remove every particle of dirt with a stiff brush, and then rinse with luke warm water. Hang up to dry, and when all the water has dried off, but while the leather is still soft and pliable give a good dressing of harness oil. When the oil has dried in, carefully wipe every piece so as to remove any surplus oil that may not have been absorbed in any place, for this only catches dirt, which in time becomes hard to remove. Harness thus treated once a year will last much longer than if never oiled; it would be better if oiled more frequently, but even once a year will add

greatly to the lifetime of a set of harness. It is good management and wise economy to take time to oil the harness and keep it in first class repair.

MEAT FOR POULTRY.

The best food for making hens lay is lean meat. But a supply of it is often hard to get. Any animals that die during the winter can be fed, if wholesome, with profit to the poultry. Some poultrymen are always on the lookout for old horses or cattle etc., for this purpose, and find it pays well to even give a fair price for the animals. The hide is taken off and sold, the flesh boiled with boiled feed, and the bones cut up green and all fed to the poultry.

The latest plan for supplying meat for poultry is by rabbits during the winter; trap and shoot them and feed the carcasses to the poultry.

One reason why hens sometimes fail to lay when they have plenty of grain is that they require a change, and meat contains the material for supplying the albumen of the eggs, and it is therefore a substance that the hens must have or they cannot perform service. If the hens are fat, give one ounce of lean meat each day, allowing no other food for a week or two. When the supply of eggs fails stop all other foods and feed lean meat, or liver, say cheap meat will answer, and it will be found superior to anything that can be used. Green bone that contains a large proportion of lean meat is even better, provided the fat portions are removed from the bone. It will be found cheaper than grain because it will make eggs. A bone-cutter is the best thing for cutting up bones; they can now be had very cheaply; but if you haven't one, get a good block of iron and a heavy hammer and smash up the bones. If you have never tried this plan do so now, and you will find that if done with the hens around you, it will be difficult to keep them from getting under the hammer, so eager will they be to get the pieces of bone. It is a good plan to feel the hen occasionally to see if they are getting too fat, as they are very apt to do if on an exclusive grain diet.

LIKE THEIR MEDALS PROMPTLY.

Five Weeks After the Soudan Campaign the Soldiers Received the Egyptian Decoration.

Among the characteristics that have made Lord Kitchener popular with British soldiers is his jealous watchfulness for their interests in small things as well as big. It was shown throughout the recent campaign, and it did not cease with active service. Medals are small things, perhaps, in the estimation of some civilians, but they are important to "Tommy," who naturally likes to wear the decorations that proclaim his part in stirring scenes while public interest is warm on the subject. Knowing this, Lord Kitchener took care that there should be no delay in issuing the Khedive's medal to regiments of the British brigade. Omdurman was fought on Sept. 2, and within five weeks from that date the Sirdar was presenting medals, with clasps for "Khartoum," to British Grenadiers at Wellington Barracks. Now, every soldier who took part in that campaign has received the Egyptian decoration to which he is entitled, but nothing is heard yet about an English medal.

A great contrast to Lord Kitchener's promptitude in distributing medals while soldiers have an opportunity of displaying them to appreciative eyes, is presented by the action of our War Office authorities, who almost invariably delay the issue of decorations to non-commissioned officers and men, until a year or two after interest in a campaign has waned. Old soldiers will tell you that they had to wait at least two years for their medals after the campaigns in South Africa, Egypt, the Eastern Soudan and Burma. In the interval many had left the ranks, and passed to the reserve, so that they never had a chance of wearing their medals in uniform. Sometimes the period of waiting has been much longer.

The 7th Hussars have just received their medals for the last Matabele campaign, which ended more than two years ago, but none have been issued yet to the local forces, who certainly took their full share of all the dangers and hardships. No excuse can be given for this dilatoriness, in which there is a touch of injustice, except the senseless routine which should be abolished at once.

A SWIFT-COMING STAR.

Professor Campbell of the Lick Observatory has discovered that the star Eta Cephei is approaching the earth at the rate of 165,000 miles in an hour. But even with that speed it would require 18,000 years for the flying star to cross the gap which separates the earth from the nearest star in the heavens, Alpha Centauri. The distance of Eta Cephei is not known, but it is much greater than that of Alpha Centauri.

WAR AGAINST SPARROWS.

The English sparrow, which has won so bad a reputation for quarrelsomeness on this side of the ocean, is evidently becoming unpopular at home. At a recent meeting in London of the Society for the Protection of Birds it was proposed to petition the authorities throughout the country to adopt measures for checking the increase of house sparrows, because they drive swallows and martins from their nests and destroy their eggs and nestlings.

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Nova Scotia's estimates are \$874,628.

Kingston fire department will have an aerial truck.

London's city accounts show a deficit of \$21,900 for 1898.

The Plains of Abraham have been surveyed into building lots.

The wrecked steamer Castilian is reported to have broken in two.

The City Engineer of Hamilton says that all the main thoroughfares in that city need repairs.

The stove manufacturers of Hamilton will increase the pay of their moulders 10 per cent. on May 1.

The Sawyer-Massey Company of Hamilton have increased their employees' wages ten per cent.

Complaints are being made of the urgent need of an inspector of weights and measures at Atlin and Dawson.

The McClary Manufacturing Company of London have advanced the wages of their stove hands 10 per cent.

Representatives of the Bank of British North America and the Bank of Commerce are en route to Atlin to open branches there.

It is rumored that the controlling interest of the Hamilton Street Railway Co. had been secured by a New Trust company.

Price, the Manitoba young farmer, who shot Richard Boulton three weeks ago with murderous intent, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

Mr. P. W. St. George, City Surveyor of Montreal, has resigned in consequence of too much interference by Aldermen in the work of his department.

Guszek and Czuby, two Galicians found guilty of the murder of a com-patriot and four children at Stuarburn last fall, were sentenced at Winnipeg to hang on May 28.

J. J. Metcalf of Chicago, who has had much experience in the building of elevators, has been in Quebec in connection with the erection of a million-bushel elevator there.

M. M. Reeves has been sentenced to one month's imprisonment and a fine of \$100 at Dawson for attempting to bribe H. H. Martin, the inquiry clerk at the Gold Commissioner's office.

The fees at Queen's University for pass examinations in science and arts have been raised from \$3 to \$6, and in honor examinations from \$4 to \$8. This is done with a view of raising more funds.

The Woodstock, N. B. Town Council has abolished the tax of \$3 to \$5 on commercial travellers visiting that place, it being the only town in Canada where the tax was made. The tax affected Toronto and Montreal houses.

The Court of Appeal of Quebec has confirmed the judgment of the Superior Court awarding \$1,939 damages to the parents of the late Miss Alphonse Thibadeau against Sir W. C. McDonald of Montreal, in whose factory the girl was killed at the time of the fire in April, 1895.

W. H. Millais, the artist, and brother of the late Sir John Everett Millais president of the Royal Academy, is dead.

Rev. James A. Spurgeon, brother of the late Rev. Charles Hadden Spurgeon, was found dead in a railway carriage at London.

Enquiry is to be made into the sufficiency of exits in the large hotels and mansions in London, suggested by the Windsor horror.

At the banquet of the British Economic Association, Prof. Ashley said the trusts were mainly the outcome of an attempt to get rid of the disastrous effects of cut-throat competition.

Lord Salisbury and M. Paul Cambon have signed a convention defining the Anglo-French boundaries in C n r l Africa. Britain retains the Bah-el-Ghazal and Darfur, while France gets the territories north and west of Lake Tchad.

Considerable dissension is reported between the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the former opposing and the latter favoring the African schemes of Mr. Cecil Rhodes.

A millionaire, named Alfred Stern son of the late Baron Stern, has been declared insane. He is said to be worth \$15,000,000 and recently created a disturbance at Marlborough house, the town residence of the Prince of Wales, by attempting to force an entrance there under the hallucination that he is the Prince.

Maudie Richardson, the alleged wife of Wm. Johnson, known as "Harry, the Valet," who was concerned in the robbery of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland's jewels in Paris last October, intends to personally serve the Duchess with a writ to recover the reward offered for the recovery of the stolen jewellery, she having betrayed Johnson to the police.

Special significance attaches to the appointment of Commodore Gifford to command the British squadron in Newfoundland waters during the coming fishing season. His selection is regarded as indicating a determination on the part of Great Britain to enforce a settlement of disputed questions in

this quarter by strengthening the squadron.

UNITED STATES.

The Cuban army numbers 13,219 men.

Two men were killed in a fight with Mexicans at Laredo, Texas, the result of a discussion over smallpox.

California newspapers must now attach the name of the writer to all local news referring to individuals.

United States capitalists will spend \$265,000 in trolley lines about Niagara Falls this summer in connection with the Pan-American project.

Bedford Beale, died of hiccoughing at Norfolk, Va. Fifteen days ago he began to hiccough intermittently, and for eight days he hiccoughed unceasingly.

Over 2,000 pounds of smokeless powder exploded at the Dupont Powder Works at Carney Point, N.J., instantly killing three workmen and injuring a number of others slightly.

At San Francisco, Mrs. Melba had a narrow escape from serious injury. She was hit on the head by a heavy bronze statue, which fell from a pedestal, and was unconscious for 15 minutes.

The Central Vermont Railroad was sold on Thursday under foreclosure proceedings and the entire property was purchased by Ezra H. Baker of Boston, Chairman of the Bondholders' Committee, for \$7,000,000.

John T. Shayne, the millionaire Chicago furrier, was shot three times by H. H. Hammond, a merchant tailor, while the two were dining at a hotel. Shayne will live. Hammond is under arrest. Domestic troubles.

New York's Board of Aldermen tabled a resolution calling on the Commissioner of Public Buildings to hoist the national city and state flags on all public buildings on May 24, in honor of Queen Victoria's birthday.

A despatch from Omaha reports the burning of a building in which a lodge of lady Macabees was meeting. They were compelled to jump from the windows, and two were killed and several badly injured. One fireman was probably fatally injured.

John Moore, of Hamilton, Kan., whose house was burned and his five children found dead in it, has been arrested charged with murdering the children. The bodies were not badly burned, but each skull was indented, and all but one had been stabbed in the neck. Moore tells a very lame story.

Mrs. Augusta Schmidt, who is serving a ten years' sentence for murder in the Indiana women's prison, has been paroled by Governor Mount, but declines to accept her freedom until the Judge and jury which tried her acknowledge that she was innocent and that they were in error when they passed judgment upon her.

In an interview Rear Admiral Sampson, of the United States navy, expressed the hope that the good feeling between Great Britain and the United States would be permanent. He says the United States has more to gain by a defensive alliance than Great Britain, and he rejoices that the recent change of sentiment has taken place.

GENERAL.

Munkacsy, the famous painter, is dead.

Mauritius is now free from the plague.

The story of the finding of Andree's balloon and three bodies proves to have been a falsehood.

Germans are buying Kipling's books as the result of the Emperor's recent message to the poet.

It is feared that the cattle plague which is raging at Suakin, will spread to Egypt and the Soudan.

Emperor William wants his mval officers and men to either be clean shaven or grow full beards.

It is reported that 35 lives have been lost by the bursting of a water-spout near Oaxaca, Mexico.

Emperor William, it is said, will confer the Order of the Crown of Prussia upon Mr. Cecil Rhodes.

Starving Cretans, to the number of 6,000, plighted Greek and Turkish quarters in Smyrna. Many persons were killed.

In 14 municipalities in Alsace-Lorraine, insects have destroyed the vineyards. The growers want stock from America introduced.

A Rome despatch says Baroness Von Donovberg has been robbed at Pisa of jewels valued at \$21,400 and \$780 cash. Her servant is missing.

An Angl-Egyptian expedition will be undertaken next autumn, to finally dispose of the Khalifa Abdullah and other Dervish leaders in the Soudan.

Out of about one million persons who during the year have become liable to military service in Russia, 284,500 have been added to the standing army.

For photographing Prince Bismarck on his death bed, two German photographers and an attendant have been sent to jail for six, three, and five months.

A French engineer is said to have perfected an improvement to the telephone, by which conversation may be carried on several yards from the instrument.

Judge Overend of Londonderry, heard a suit regarding the will of a County Down farmer, named James Dunn, who left nearly £1,000 to the widow of the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon and her son, to be spent in the free distribution of Mr Spurgeon's sermons in the manner which they considered would accomplish the most good. The relatives of the testator opposed probate, disputing the will. At the suggestion of the judge, a verdict by consent was entered, the relatives getting two-thirds of the bequest.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

What the Legislators of the Country are Doing at Ottawa.

RAILWAY EARNINGS.

The annual report of the Minister of Railways and Canals, just presented to Parliament, shows that on the 30th June, 1898, there were 16,870 miles of completed railway in Canada, an increase of 183 miles during the year. Besides this there are 2,248 miles of sidings. The paid-up capital of the Canadian railway companies amounted to \$941,297,000, an increase of \$19,439,800. The gross earnings were \$59,715,100, an increase of \$175,611,830; working expenses, \$39,137,550, an increase of \$3,968,880 compared with the previous year, leaving the net earnings \$20,577,550, an increase of \$3,392,940. The number of passengers carried was 18,440,000, an increase of 2,272,710. Freight traffic amounted to 28,785,900 tons, an increase of 3,485,570 tons. The number of miles run by trains was 50,658,280, an increase of 4,977,432. Accident returns show that five passengers were killed during the year.

Up to date the Government of Canada has spent on railways, on capital account, \$123,551,000, and for railway subsidies \$17,619,220, a total of \$141,170,220. Since Confederation there has been spent in maintenance and operation of Government railways \$73,029,630, the revenue derived from them being \$64,510,650. The net loss on their operation has been \$8,518,980.

LOSS ON GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

During the past year the net loss on the operation of the Government railways, Intercolonial and Prince Edward Island, was \$263,400, including \$70,000 sent paid for the extension of the I. C. R. to Montreal, to which point it has been runnings since March 1st. The gross earnings were \$3,313,947, an increase of \$53,772 over the previous year, and the working expenses \$3,577,248, an increase of \$399,979. During the year there was also spent on the I. C. R. and charged to capital account the sum of \$253,756.

CANAL STATISTICS.

Canal statistics for the season of navigation of 1897 show the revenue from tolls to have been \$346,755, a decrease of \$3,802. The chief decrease was \$6,432 on the Welland, due to a reduction of 10 cents a ton on tolls on certain agricultural products. The Ottawa canal revenue increased \$3,525, and the Rideau canal revenue increased \$1,162. The total capital expenditure on canals has been \$72,504,400; last fiscal year the expenditure was \$3,207,249.

INCREASED REPRESENTATION.

Mr. McInnes is anxious to see the representation of British Columbia increased. He also desires the Dominion census to be taken in 1900, and every ten years thereafter. He will move to memorialize the Imperial Government to grant the necessary powers to make these changes. Petitions are coming in from the County Councils of Ontario, asking for relief in the maintenance of poor and infirm in county goals, and to reduce the fees of constables.

The Minister of Militia received a deputation representing the Town Council of Gananoque, consisting of Mayor Carroll and Alderman Turner, who strongly urged the erection of a drill-shed in the town. The deputation was accompanied by Messrs. Britton and Taylor, M.P.'s.

Mr. E. F. Clarke will ask what has been taken for a proper Canadian mineral exhibit at the Greater Britain Exhibition, to be held in London, England, this year.

LAW AGAINST GAMBLING.

A petition, signed by influential residents of Montreal, was presented, setting forth that the law against gambling and lotteries, and the keeping of gaming-houses, is wholly inadequate to suppress the evil, which has developed in Montreal and the Province of Quebec, to an alarming extent, and praying that steps be taken to remedy this defect in the statute.

Messrs. Wm. Christie, J. K. Osborne, and G. H. Bertram, M.P. of Toronto; A. Lumsden, M.P.P., and J. W. McKee, Ottawa; and Senator Forget, of Montreal, are proposed incorporators of the Canadian Inland Transportation Company, which is seeking a charter from Parliament.

RAILWAYS FOR ALGOMA.

Two important railway schemes in connection with the development of the Algoma mining district has been brought to the attention of the Hon. A. G. Blair, Minister of Railways and Canals, by a delegation, composed of Messrs. Byron W. Goodsell, of Chicago; Byron G. Coryell, of Cheroning, Mich.; Marie, Ont. They represent the Bruce Mines and Algoma Railway Company, the Worthington and Onaping Railway Company, and the Rock Lake Mining Company, all of Algoma. The railway company is applying to the Ontario Government for a charter to build a road from Bruce Mines to Algoma, a distance of 50 miles. English capitalists recently got possession of the Bruce copper mines, and are preparing to put in machinery to take out large quantities of copper. The railway company want a bonus of \$3,200 a mile for the first ten miles of the Bruce Mines road.

The other railway scheme is that of the Worthington and Onaping Railway Company. Incorporation is being sought at Toronto. Mr. H. W. Eversden, an English capitalist now residing near Sault Ste. Marie, and Mr. McKay represent the Worthington Company. The route is from Worthington, on the Algoma Branch of the C.P.R., north to Vermilion valley, a distance of 61 miles. The line will be a continuation of the Manitoulin and North Shore line. The new line will run through a rich nickel and copper district, and will pass near the McConnell, Sulana, Inez, and Trilla Belt copper mines through the Levek township nickel range, to the placor gold mining district of Vermilion valley.