



POULTRY YARD

DOMINIQUE FOWLS.

The London Field says of this variety which it denominated American.

There are two or three useful and good breeds of poultry that are not well known in England. One of the oldest established, and certainly one of the most useful, is the Dominique. This breed more closely resembles our Cuckoo Dorkin than any other English variety. It differs, however, in having only four toes—a great advantage, by the way, in a practical point of view—and in the legs being yellow. Each feather is of a very light grey, barred across with dark slaty blue bars, of pencillings. The Dominique cocks are showy birds, with full saddles and hackles, and abundant well matched sickle feathers. They should weigh from six to eight pounds when mature. As table fowls they should necessarily be short legged, full-chest and broad on the back. The ear lobes should be red, and the wattles and comb neat; the former of medium size. The merits of this breed will recommend them to persons residing in the country, as well worthy of promotion in the poultry-yard, whether as makers of eggs, or of meat; as setters, or nursers, they are invaluable.

EGG-EATING FOWLS.

It is always considered that fowls first eat eggs for the sake of the shell, because they have not access to the ingredient that compose it. Lime is the principal ingredient, and as there is much of it in the hull of corn, they get some of it in that way, but they should be provided with a heap of bricklayers' rubbish.

If each run is not provided with grass heavy sods of earth should be cut covered with growing grass. If they are to be had some lettuce should also be given, but they must be green. Whole feed morning and evening, barley meal or ground oats, at noon, give whole corn and house scraps. This, with plenty of green food, road grit and old plaster should keep them in perfect health. If they are so, they will not eat their eggs. But after this vicious habit has been formed it is almost impossible to cure them. First let them be watched, and as soon as the hen gives notice that she has laid, she must be driven from the nest and the egg removed. We have sometimes cured them by filling an egg shell with mustard and cayenne pepper and let it remain in the nest. This does well sometimes and has to be repeated, or at least until all the fowls have had enough to satisfy them that they don't relish that kind of eggs. We have also cured them by the use of china eggs in the nest and around it, that is on the floor of the coop. There constant pecking at them makes their beaks sore, and making no impression on the nest egg, they give it up as a bad job, when these remedies fail, the best thing to do is to apply the hatchet pretty near the back of the head *Poultry Argus*.

TEA AND COFFEE.

Hall's *Journal of Health* says: Taking into account the habits of the people, tea and coffee for supper and breakfast add to human health and life, if a single cup be taken at either meal, and is never increased in strength, frequency or quantity. If they were mere stimulants, and were taken thus in moderation and in uniformity, they would in time become inert, or the system would become so habituated to their employment as to remain in the same relative position to them as if they had never been used, as they are liable to abuse. But science and fact unite in declaring them to be nutritious as well as stimulant; hence they will do a new good to the system every day to the end of life, just as bread and fruits do; hence we never get tired of either. But the use of bread and fruits is daily abused by multitudes, and dyspepsia and cholera morbus result; yet we ought not to forego the use of tea and coffee because their inordinate use gives neuralgia and other ailments. But the habitual use of tea and coffee at the last and first meals of the day has another high advantage—is productive of incalculable good in the way of averting evils.

We will drink at our meals, and if we do not drink these, we will drink what is worse—cold

water, milk or alcoholic mixtures. The regular use of the last will lead the young to drunkenness; the considerable employment of simple milk at meals by sedentary people—by all except the robust—will either constipate or render bilious; while cold water largely used, that is especially in cold weather, attracts to itself so much of the heat of the system in raising said water to the temperature of the body—about one hundred degrees—that the process of digestion is arrested, in the meanwhile giving rise to a deadly sickness of the stomach, to twisting pains, to vomitings, purging, and even to cramps.

The Horse.

There are a great number of horses which have the wasteful habit of throwing their feed out of the trough by means of a side jerk with the nose. This is especially the case with horses that are fed with cut feed, and it is in the search for the loose meal, which finds its way to the bottom of the trough, that the mischief is done. We have prevented the waste by simply nailing a few bars across the feeding trough. The horse then finds it impossible to throw his feed out, and must take it as he finds it.—The bars should not be more than a foot apart.

SWELLING OF LEGS.

When the legs of a horse swell upon standing in the stable it is an evidence of debility, general or local. It would be well to increase the food and quality. The following might also be of use—viz: Powdered sulphate of iron one and one half ounces; gentian root, two ounces; mixed and divided, of potassa, one ounce; mixed and divided into twelve powders. One of those given in cut feed as little moistened as possible night and morning. Ground oats would be better feed than corn. Friction by rubbing with a coarse wollen cloth upon the parts would also be helped.

CARE OF TEAM HORSES.

The following good advice to teamsters has been published in the form of a showy poster, and sent out by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals. It is signed by Daniel H. Blanchard, and endorsed by several veterinary surgeons, agents of railway and express companies, and by Chas. A. Currier, special agent of the society:

What Constitutes a Good Driver.

1. A man who sees that good care is taken of his horse in the stable, by being well fed with wholesome food, of cracked corn and oats, with plenty of good hay.

Potatoes or carrots may be given once or twice a week to good advantage.

See that he is kept clean, warm and comfortable, with plenty of bedding.

A piece of rock salt should always be left in the manger.

2. He should see that his harness is kept soft and clean, particularly the inside of the collar, which ought always to be smooth, as the perspiration, when dry, causes irritation, and is liable to produce galls on the shoulder.

The collar should fit closely, with space enough at the bottom to admit a man's hand. If too large, it has the bad effect of drawing the shoulders together.

On no consideration should a team, or any work horse be compelled to wear a martingale, as it draws the head down, and prevents him from getting into an easy and natural position.

The check-rein may be used, but only tight enough to keep the head in a natural position, and it should never be wound around the hames.

See that the hames are buckled tight enough at the top to bring the draught iron near the centre of the collar. If too low, it not only interferes with the action of the shoulder, but gives the collar an uneven bearing.

Caution should be taken that the girth is not buckled too tight, particularly on string teams, for when the traces are straightened, it has the tendency to draw the girth against the belly, and distress the horse.

3. See that the horse is kept well shod with a good stiff shoe, always calked at toe and heel on the hind feet, as it is there where all the propelling power comes from when heavily loaded.

Keep the feet good and strong, by not allowing them to be cut away too much by the blacksmith.

4. The best of judgment should be used in loading, taking into consideration the condition of the street and the distance to be travelled.

Never overload, for by so doing you only distress, strain and discourage your horse, and do him more injury than you can possibly gain by carrying the extra load.

When your load is hard to pull, stop often and give your horse a chance to breathe. No good driver will ever resort to the cruel practice of whipping or beating his horse. A light whip may be carried, but there is seldom use for it. Much more can be accomplished by kind treatment and good judgment.

Remember the horse is a very intelligent, proud, sensitive, noble animal, the most useful known to man, and is deserving of the greatest kindness.

CRITICAL TIME FOR COLTS.

It very often happens that in the third year of a colt's life it falls off in condition, stops growing, and becomes mysteriously poor and emaciated. Disease is suspected, various nostrums and absurd specifics for imaginary complaints are administered, which fail of effect, and it is only after a lapse of time that a measure of improvement takes place, which, however, leaves the colt permanently injured and with an impaired constitution.

At this period of the colt's existence an important dental change is going on. The central temporary milk nippers or cutting teeth in the front of its mouth are shed, and the permanent teeth take their place. If the colt is at grass it is almost impossible for it to graze, and it suffers partial starvation. This is the whole secret of many a colt's sufferings. The trouble in such cases would be avoided by occasionally examining the mouth, and when the temporary absence of the nippers is observed, to supply cut feed of tender hay, with ground oats or soft mashes or cut green fodder. This provision would tide over the necessarily occurring period of disability, and prevent the otherwise inevitable falling away and poverty of condition, with its disastrous results.—*New York Tribune*.

SPOILING HORSES' FEET.

It is almost impossible to get a horse shod without having the frog cut away. All veterinary surgeons, all horsemen, all leading blacksmiths agree that the frog should not be pared one particle, nor even trimmed.—No matter how pliable and soft the frog is, cut it away smooth on all sides, and in two days it will be dry and hard as a chip. You might as well cut all the leaves off trees and expect them to flourish, as to pare away the frog and have a healthy foot. The rough, spongy part of the frog is to the foot what leaves are to the tree—the lungs. Never have a red-hot shoe put upon the foot to burn it level. If you can find a blacksmith that is mechanic enough to level the foot without red-hot iron, employ him. If you do not think so, try the red-hot poker on your finger nail, and see how it will affect the growth of that. There are many other important points in shoeing horses, but these two are of more importance than all the rest, and the most disregarded. "No frog, no foot; no foot, no horse."

SOCIETY IN THE COUNTRY.

One of the chronic complaints made by farmers is that they have no society—that they are so isolated, have none of the social privileges which might be theirs were they living in towns. This is often used by Farmers' sons, daughters and wives as a reason why the homestead should be sold or rented and the family move into town near a church and school. These reasons are sometimes valid. But it is often the case that a neighborhood of farmers make no effort to employ their own resources in social development. There is no neighborhood cohesion. Every man's hand is against the other man's hand: every woman nurses scandal against every other woman. The amenities of life are neither known nor nursed. There is no friendly interchange of visits. The long winter evenings come and go and no neighbor ever sees the other except as they chance to meet at a blacksmith's shop, in the market, on the road or at church. They neither get together to talk ever farm or other mat-

ters. There are no reading, singing, debating, dramatics, or other clubs formed among the young folks. They have to go to town for amusements or profit.

Need we say that this is both wrong and unnecessary? Suppose the material out of which country society is to be composed is crude and uncultivated? Cultivate it. Here is a field for effort on the part of the more intelligent. Stimulate thought and action in this direction and it will be astonishing how much the crudest and most untutored will learn in a short space of time. At any rate, hold neighborhood meetings. Gather together at the home of some one once a week, and strive to develop friendly feeling, neighborhood pride and ambition, home talent and resources. Let old and young meet. Abandon formalities which only freeze out natural action and beget no warmth. Go in for a good time in some way. Combine instruction with amusement. Plan some project which shall enlist the active co-operation of all. Treat no one as unimportant. Make every one, old and young, feel that he or she has a place, can, and is expected to act a part. Commend what is done well and kindly and considerately; criticize whatever may be improved.

This isolation of which so many complain can be broken. It should be. It will be. We are glad to know that the Patrons of Husbandry are in agency to this end. But thousands will not join it; and those thousands should substitute something else for it which shall meet the social wants and awaken the social spirit among farmers. There are a hundred ways for improvement and pleasure which will suggest themselves the moment the ice of reserve and self-distrust is broken. These winter evenings should be utilized to get acquainted with each other—to lift each other up; and any neighborhood effort of this sort should include *All! Try it!*—*Moore's Rural New-Yorker*.

EXPORTS FROM CANADA.

The total exports from Canada, being the products of the country, amounted last year to the value of \$73,245,600. Of this the contributions were as follows, respectively:—

The Mine, \$6,471,162; Fisheries, \$4,779,277; Forest, \$28,586,816; Agriculture and animals, \$29,238,357; Manufactures, &c. \$2,921,802; other articles, \$405,292; Ships built at Quebec, \$782,900. The exports accruing from agriculture and its products amounted to about \$7.50 per head of the population, while the amount of manufactures exported was less than 75 cents per head. During the same time the United States exported in wheat, corn, cotton and provisions to the amount of \$371,500,000, or in proportion of \$9 per head of the population. If the lumber produced in Canada is taken as a set-off against the cotton, the export of domestic products from Canada would be at the rate of \$14.50 per head, while all things included, the exports will be in value of \$18.35 per head.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A CAR LOAD.

Below will be found a statement showing what constitutes a car-load, and though it may not exactly suit everywhere, it approximates so closely to the general average that shippers will find it a great convenience as a matter of reference.—As a general rule, 20,000 pounds or 70 barrels of salt, 70 barrels of lime, 90 of flour, 60 of whiskey, 200 sacks of flour, 6 cords of hardwood, 7 cords of softwood, 18 to 20 heads of cattle, 60 to 60 heads of hogs, 80 to 100 heads of sheep, 9,000 feet of solid boards, 17,000 feet of siding, 13,000 feet of hard lumber, one-fourth less green lumber, one-tenth less joists, scantling and all other large timber, 340 bushels of wheat, 360 of corn, 680 of oats, 400 of barley, 360 of flax seed, 350 of apples, 360 of Irish potatoes, 1,000 bushels of bran.

WHERE THE COLD HAS BEEN.

The winter just closed has been the severest in Nevada since its settlement by the whites. The *Virginia City Enterprise* says: The almost continuous cold weather since the beginning of December has had no equal in duration and intensity in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant. The cold has been more intense in the valleys than at higher altitudes, and the loss in stock from storm and starvation will be very considerable. Governor Bradley alone lost 2,000 head of cattle, and the enormous herds wintering in the State have been thinned in almost all the eastern counties. A despatch from Elko says the thermometer marked 30 deg. below zero at that place on the morning of February 25th.

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